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Nuclear Materials, Expertise May Leak Abroad

PM1301093192 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 11 Jan 92 p 5

[K. Belyaninov report under the general heading "Nuclear Weapons: Price Liberalization": "...Although Bombs Are Still Not on Free Sale"]

[Text] Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS] leaders have reassigned the duties of controlling the nuclear button without saying a word about what will happen to the nuclear industry. It is not even a matter of Tajikistan. Specialists from "Tekhsnabeksport," the country's only organization conducting foreign trade operations in the nuclear sphere, claim that with all the will in the world the raw materials extracted in Tajikistan cannot be used as the component for a bomb.

"There are no such enterprises at all in the present independent states," the firm's deputy general director, Arkadiy Chuvin, claims.

Also, it is altogether absurd to talk about selling the raw material abroad. According to "Tekhsnabeksport," 1kg of uranium that has undergone initial processing is worth roughly $40 on the world market.

Be that as it may, uranium mines are still being worked in Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Kyrgystan, and Russia. It is quite likely that this uranium will turn up abroad somewhere in the very near future. The republics have declared themselves nuclear-free zones, yet they now need hard currency, albeit even highly insignificant amounts, far more than they need tonnes of useless metal.

But it is not with the West that they will be reaching agreement. Long-term contracts for processing the fuel were concluded with Europe 15 years ago and uranium from Britain, Sweden, Finland, and France is still being successfully enriched at Russian enterprises. There are simply no other such enterprises in the country, although the whole process is monitored very strictly by the International Atomic Energy Agency and Euratom. Former Soviet uranium may therefore quite possibly surface somewhere in Iraq or Pakistan over the next few years.

The Arab world has already announced its plans to develop its own nuclear bomb, moreover the intention is to produce weapons-grade plutonium at Syria's nuclear power station, built in the past by Soviet specialists. The potential of Iraq's nuclear power generation, developed with direct Soviet involvement, is still unknown.

The Ministry of Atomic Power Engineering and Industry is giving assurances however that there were no contracts covering this and everything accords with the international nuclear nonproliferation pact.

But there are still the scientists. Over the last two years the program for the development of new-generation weapons has been axed once and for all, both testing grounds have been closed down, and production in four of the 10 "nuclear" cities has been suspended. Nuclear physicists are now developing new kinds of iceboxes and producing baby buggies "under the conversion program." But that will last a year or two, no longer.

The president of Brazil has already said that 5,000 jobs are being created for Soviet scientists. Including nuclear scientists. Closed cities [nomernyye goroda] are being swamped with offers from Western and Eastern firms and there are virtually no obstacles even in the way of former top-secret physicists leaving. So, by the long-awaited year 2000 we may be left without scientific potential, in exchange for heaps of outdated missiles, while several new nuclear powers appear in the world.

NATO Study Group Reviews Armed Forces Treaty

LD1101050692 Moscow TASS in English 1132 GMT 10 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Valeriy Shashkov]

[Text] Brussels January 10 TASS—The first meeting of a high-level working group, set up under the North Atlantic Cooperation Council to discuss problems related to arms and disarmament control, opened today at the Brussels headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). It will discuss the implementation of the treaty on conventional armed forces in Europe, concluded in 1990.

Its main attention will be focused on the fulfilment by all parties of the assumed commitments in light of the changing political situation in the eastern part of the European continent.

In addition to representatives from NATO, Eastern Europe, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, which set up the council last December, envoys from the republics of the former Soviet Union, whose territories are covered by the conventional armed forces treaty, have also been invited to take part in the meeting.

"The Russian Federation, which is a legal successor of the USSR, bears full responsibility for all the rights and obligations, arising from the conventional armed forces treaty," Russia's special representative Vladimir Petrovskiy told TASS.

"At the same time, we believe constant efforts should be exerted to resolve the set of problems, pertaining to the implementation of this treaty within the bounds of the former Union. In order to continue the started arms reduction process, it is extremely important to fulfil the obligations, assumed by all the treaty members, especially in light of the changing situation in the former USSR. Proceeding from this, Russia intends to take an active part in the work of the high-level team."

Shaposhnikov Speaks With Foreign Leaders

Discusses Military With Kissinger

LD1301132192 Moscow TASS in English 1252 GMT 13 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Moscow January 13 (TASS)—Military problems of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) were in the focus of discussion on Monday [13 January] between the CIS Commander in Chief Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov and former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

According to a CIS military spokesman, Kissinger was satisfied that united control over strategic and tactical nuclear weapons, as well as that of the CIS armed forces is being preserved. The CIS commitment to all Soviet disarmament and arms control pledges was also welcomed, Valeriy Manilov told TASS.

Shaposhnikov told Kissinger a transition period is necessary to transform the CIS armed forces in accordance with present-day political realities, Manilov said. He added U.S.-CIS future relations were also discussed.

Meets With U.S. Congressman

PM1301093792 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Jan 92 p 1

[Unattributed report under the general heading: "Official Reports"]

[Text] Marshal of Aviation Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] Armed Forces, met with Les Aspin, chairman of the Congressional Armed Services Committee, 10 January.

During the talks questions relating to the reduction of both sides' nuclear arsenals, the further development of Soviet-U.S. relations—not least in the military sphere—and the prospects for military reform in the CIS were discussed.

Confers With UK Official

LD1301033592 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1754 GMT 10 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow, 10 Jan (TASS)—Air Force Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the Commonwealth of Independent States armed forces, today met Baroness Caroline Cox, deputy speaker of the House of Lords of the British parliament, at her request. Matters relating to the Nagorno-Karabakh situation, from where the British human rights activist returned on Thursday [9 January], were discussed during the hour-long meeting. The danger of the region's conflict escalating and the need for constructive political solutions to the existing situation were stressed. Before flying out to London, Lady Cox told TASS that decisions on Nagorno-Karabakh should be taken at a political rather than military level. She said that it was imperative to lift the Nagorno-Karabakh blockade. Baroness Cox commented that the situation has deteriorated catastrophically since the withdrawal of Interior Ministry troops, and said finding a way of introducing peacekeeping forces into Nagorno-Karabakh would be one way of averting mass deaths.

Vietnamese Diplomat Denies Kalugin's Claims

LD1001171492 Moscow TASS in English 1628 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Hanoi January 10 TASS—The statements of the former KGB General Oleg Kalugin alleging that after signing the Paris accords on Vietnam in 1973, some KGB officers had several meetings with American prisoners of war in Vietnam, are obvious fabrication deserving public condemnation, a Vietnam Foreign Ministry representative was quoted as telling the Vietnamese News Agency on Thursday [9 January]. Kalugin's statements are very contradictory, the Vietnamese diplomat stressed. In his first public statement the general said the meetings took place in 1978, later he affirmed they were held in 1976. The KGB officer Oleg Necheporenko who, according to Kalugin, interrogated American prisoners, denied the statement.

Persons who make such statements are indifferent towards the families of the American servicemen considered missing in Vietnam, and shall be held responsible for what they are saying, the Vietnamese diplomat pointed out.

Impact of Claims on SRV-U.S. Ties

92UF0436A Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Jan 92 p 5

[Article by PRAVDA correspondent Petr Tsvetov under the rubric "Our Correspondent Comments": "Will There Be a Gift From Uncle Sam, or Will Oleg Kalugin Stand in the Way?]

[Text] Hanoi—**It is customary to make wishes and expect gifts for the New Year and Christmas. Some events of this holiday season suggest that in the New Year of 1992 Vietnam may receive a gift from Uncle Sam. Two rather influential American visitors who recently visited Hanoi promised that the American embargo on trade with Vietnam would be removed. Then goods exchange will start between the two countries, and, most importantly, American capital will flow into Vietnam.**

I will remind the reader that the White House prohibited its citizens from doing business with Vietnam after the defeat of the marionette regime in Saigon in 1975 and the unification of the country within the framework of a socialist republic. Since then, no American has taken the risk of trading with Vietnam directly, or of investing capital in it. This is for a good reason: The punishment for violations is 10 years in jail or $50,000.

In the middle of December a delegation of the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, headed by the president of this organization, Warren Williams, visited Hanoi. This was the first delegation of U.S. businessmen to visit Vietnam since 1975. During the meetings with Vietnamese officials Williams assured them that he would send a proposal to the American authorities to lift the embargo on trade with the SRV.

Congressman S. Solarz, chairman of the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs in the U.S. Senate's Foreign Affairs Commission, visited Hanoi during the first days of the new year. Received at the highest level, he announced upon completion of the visit that the United States may lift the embargo with regard to Vietnam as early as this year. He linked it, however, with strict observance by the Vietnamese of the international agreements on Cambodia and also to how sincere they will be in resolving the issue of Americans missing in action in Vietnam.

Of course, one wants to believe such a promise, especially during the New Year celebrations. We have to remember, however, that neither Williams nor Solarz have a decisive voice in this matter. President Bush, who is visiting the countries of the Asian-Pacific region right now, said that the United States is not ready to normalize diplomatic relations with Vietnam until that same issue of Americans missing in action is resolved.

I do not know how soon it will be possible to meet the expectations of all Americans who have an interest in this issue. Especially considering that each round of Vietnamese-American debates on this topic now coincides (is it really a coincidence?) with sensations originating from our country. During Solarz's visit, the world was discussing the statement made by O. Kalugin that KGB officers interrogated three Americans in Hanoi in 1978 and that more than 10 Americans were being kept in Vietnamese jails after 1973. Thus, Kalugin practically accused the Vietnamese authorities of deceiving the Americans—and the rest of the world—in saying that all American POW's had been returned in 1973 in compliance with the Paris Agreements.

Naturally, the Vietnamese information agency immediately published a refutation, calling Kalugin's allegations "a complete falsification" and pointing out that such people often pursue purely personal goals and therefore may now be very selective in making this kind of statements. Interestingly, CIA representatives hinted that they do not have any data confirming Kalugin's statement. Vo Van Kiet, chairman of the SRV Council of Ministers, qualified Kalugin's words as "nonsense."

Still, the word had been spoken, and people in the United States will start hoping again that they will learn something new about their lost relatives, and will stop believing that Vietnam sincerely wants to help in the search for the remains of the American pilots. Somebody else will find that Vietnam is not making enough of an effort, and the U.S. President will not lift the embargo.

Why does Kalugin need this? Or perhaps he never gave it a thought that his words may slow down the normalization of relations between the two countries and that the vital interests of millions of people will suffer?

Commentary on Expected U.S. Military Cutbacks

LD1101073592 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1910 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Vladislav Kozyakov commentary]

[Text] The prospect of more cuts in the U.S. military budget than has been planned earlier is quite significant. Until recently, even after the disintegration of the Soviet Union, Pentagon stuck to the opinion that of a 25 percent reduction [as heard], five years would be enough. Taking into account inflation rates, the 1992 defense budget adopted last month is one percent lower as compared with the previous year. But what yesterday was regarded by U.S. policymakers as acceptable has become unsuitable today. The situation is changing fast, posing a lot of questions. For instance, does the United States really need its strategic programs created in the cold war years and aimed against the Soviet Union which exists no more? Or is it necessary to allocate an annual of about $300 billion to military spending [as heard] when there is an urgent need to improve education, health service, and to provide more amenities for American cities. Another question is that it may be better to use a part of money spent for weapons production in the United States to destroy nuclear weapons in Russia and a number of other former Soviet republics, given the fact that their officials welcome such help and express readiness to negotiate further cuts in nuclear and other types of weapons. According to a preliminary report, the president's State of the Union message to be submitted to Congress later this month will contain new answers to questions concerning cuts in the program of building $850 million B-2 Stealth bombers and Seawolf submarines costing $2 billion each as well as some other military programs. But will the new initiatives meet the changes that have taken place in the world adequately? A number of U.S. congressmen, members of the Democratic Party, have also come out with far-reaching proposals who are looking even more significant. Senator Robert Byrd, who is the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, has suggested the Pentagon cut down its military budget by $25 billion in 1994 and another $43 billion in 1995, against $50 billion in five years as will probably be offered by the White House. Senator Edward Kennedy, also a Democrat, has put forward a plan of $210 billion cuts in military expenditure within the next seven years, stipulating the use of these means for economic purposes. He said it would relieve a substantial part of the human suffering caused by the recession. Not long ago, Republicans and Democrats in the American Congress competed in quite another domain, trying to outbalance each other in their demands for the growths of military spending. Now that the world has changed, the problem of arms reduction came to the foreground both in Washington and in Moscow.

CIS Olympic Team Participation Confirmed

LD1301111992 Moscow TASS in English 1048 GMT 13 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Sergey Batirev]

[Text] Paris January 13 TASS—Vasiliy Machuga, chairman of the Olympic Movement Coordination Committee of Russia, confirmed participation of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) team in the 1992 Albertville Winter Olympics, as well as in the Barcelona Summer Olympics.

He also gave some information about the CIS Olympic team. According to the chairman, the CIS team will perform under the Olympic flag, but every member of the national team will have the option of wearing a uniform with his state national emblem. In the event of a CIS sportsman's victory, the Olympic hymn, Beethoven's well-known "Ode to Joy" will be played. The procedure of presenting an athlete has also been agreed upon: First the name of the sportsman will be announced, then CIS, followed by the name of the state he represents.

"We hope to finalise these proposals at the 18 January meeting in Moscow of Russian President Boris Yeltsin with the IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch", Machuga stated.

According to the chairman of the Russian sports department, the CIS Olympic team in the Albertville Winter Olympics will consist of 160 sportsmen, 148 of which will represent Russia.

An agreement on the conditions of CIS sportsmen's participation in the world and European championships has also been reached. According to Vasiliy Machuga, in such competitions the CIS teams will take part under the flag of the international sports federation organizing that particular championship. For example, in the European figure-skating championship, which will start in 10 days time in Lausanne, the CIS figure-skaters will participate under the flag of the International Skating Federation. In case of a CIS sportsmen's victory, no national hymn will be played. This "transition state" will continue for the whole of 1992, until all former Soviet republics are recognised by international sports bodies as independent members. Beginning in 1993, each member state of the CIS will start participating as a separate team, Machuga said. According to the Russian sports official, as far as the 1992 European football championship is concerned, the team of the former USSR must go to Stockholm, being the winner of the qualifying round.

The final organisational questions regarding participation of the CIS sportsmen in different future international competitions will be decided in the meetings of Juan Antonio Samaranch with all sports officials of the CIS in March and May 1992.

EC Minister on CIS Diplomatic Missions

LD1201185492 Moscow TASS in English 0908 GMT 12 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Gennadiy Petrov]

[Text] Lisbon January 12 TASS—The foreign ministers of Common Market countries have put forward an idea of establishing joint diplomatic missions in the Republics of the former Soviet Union, according to Portuguese Foreign Minister Joao de Deus Pinheiro, who has been presiding over the European Community since January 1. He set out this position of the EC Foreign Ministers' Council at the Lisbon meeting of a group of deputies to the European Parliament and a U.S. Congress delegation.

Such a solution will enable EC representatives to speak "in one voice" at an international meeting on the situation in the former Soviet Union, the Portuguese foreign minister emphasised. The meeting will be held in Washington on January 22-23.

Sam Gibbons, the leader of the U.S. Congress delegation, voiced doubt about the possibility of the rendering of aid by the United States and other countries to the former Soviet republics if they do not provide guarantees of their renunciation of nuclear weapons, including tactical ones.

On behalf of the Common Market, the Portuguese foreign minister supported the U.S. stand and said that the military question would be one of the main subjects of discussion at the Washington meeting.

Indian Minister Views Importance of CIS Ties

LD1201185992 Moscow TASS in English 0711 GMT 12 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Boris Zaytsev]

[Text] New Delhi January 12 TASS—India will devote paramount attention to matters aimed at maintaining and developing relations with Russia and other members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Defence Minister Sharad Pavar told All-India Radio in an interview broadcast here on Saturday night.

He pointed out major importance of close ties with the CIS for the maintenance of the country's defence capacity.

A large part of combat hardware and weapons that are in service with the Indian Army have been made at the plants of the CIS member states and India does not want to abandon the present technology, the minister emphasised.

Afghan Conflict, Consequences for CIS Links

PM1001140592 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 10 Jan 92 Single Edition p 3

[Report by correspondent A. Oliynik: "Agreement to Accompaniment of Gunfire"]

[Text] Kabul—With the start of 1992 snow is falling almost daily in Kabul. The sharp drop in temperature and the abundant snowfall have transformed the Afghan capital, but they have not stopped the bloodshed. It is continuing despite the fact that as of 1 January of the New Year the agreement between Moscow and Washington on ending military supplies to Afghanistan entered into force. Speaking on radio and television on this subject, President Najibullah confirmed yet again that Afghanistan supports the joint Soviet-U.S. agreements and views them as an important step in establishing peace on Afghan soil.

Unfortunately, it must be noted that there is still a long way to go to lasting peace in this country. Moreover, hostilities in Afghanistan are mounting with new force. At the Republic of Afghanistan Defense Ministry I was told that groupings of mujahidin have been sharply activated and are concentrating their forces and facilities on several salients at once. As before cities and administrative centers are being fired on. A tense situation has formed around Jalalabad and Gardeyz. Numerous detachments from the Hekmatyar and Khalis groupings have been brought up here. The overall leadership of combat operations near Gardeyz is being carried out by field commander Haqqani. It was under his leadership that the mujahidin took Khowst last spring.

For several weeks now Gardeyz has been subjected to artillery and rocket fire. To judge by eyewitness accounts the opposition is not sparing its ammunition: up to 500-700 shells are fired on the city in 24 hours. According to government troops' intelligence in the region of Gardeyz and Jalalabad the mujahidin have begun to use heavy Soviet armored equipment handed over to them in September last year by Saudi Arabia. It is a case of the "Iraqi trophies" including T-62 tanks, "Shilka" four-barrel anti-aircraft guns, and 122-mm howitzers. According to information which has reached the Republic of Afghanistan Defense Ministry, this combat equipment is being serviced by several Soviet prisoners of war fighting in the ranks of the mujahidin and also by Iraqi officers who deserted during the Persian Gulf war.

The Afghan Government is now taking all the necessary steps to contain the opposition's operations.

Several observers link the activation of the opposition's combat operations with Pakistan's position. That is no accident. On the one hand Pakistan has not associated itself to the Soviet-U.S. agreement and remains one of the main suppliers of weapons for the mujahidin. On the other Pakistan has recently taken a number of steps which attest to the intention of its leadership to concentrate efforts on the political aspect of resolving the Afghan problem.

It is entirely likely that with a consideration for the geopolitical changes in the region and the collapse of the Soviet Union, the Pakistani leadership has concluded that without settling the Afghan problem it will be hard to establish good relations with the independent central Asian states. That is why Islamabad is making it clear that it will not allow Afghan politics to become the hostage of a few groups of mujahidin sharply protesting a political solution to the conflict. It is not ruled out that it is for precisely this reason that the opposition is now activating combat operations in an attempt to achieve its aims with the aid of weapons.

Moscow Program Observes Changing World Order

LD1301091192

[Editorial Report] Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian at 0900 GMT on 12 January carries the 30-minute weekly "The World This Week" program, formerly titled "International Observers at the Round Table" in which political observers Viktor Levin and Nikolay Shishlin discuss current international events.

Levin refers to the fact that many people see the former bipolar nature of international politics as having been replaced by a single focus, the United States, but Shishlin points out that the European grouping of countries is now also asserting itself as a major player in world politics. He thinks the coming years will be a transitional period for the world. Levin notes moves in the U.S. Congress to cut back on military spending since the perceived enemy in the form of the USSR has disappeared. He adds that there are similarly no real external threats to the Commonwealth of Independent States, CIS, but notes that internal conflict, like that in Yugoslavia, could be the danger; maximum restraint needs to be displayed.

Shishlin takes up the subject of the United States now focusing more on its economic well-being and the competitiveness of its products in the world, relating this to Bush's Far East tour. Levin notes how the presidential election campaign is looming and how, after the incident in Tokyo, the state of Bush's health is on everyone's mind. Shishlin discusses people's concerns regarding a possible running-mate, given Quayle's unpopularity at home and abroad. Levin comments that he does not understand why the issue of the vice-presidential running mate is so important. Shishlin retorts that one needs only to think of the case of Gorbachev and Yanayev, then moves on to note that the new Russia's foreign policy needs to retain the attractions of the USSR's "new thinking". Fine slogans are not enough—Russia is on the threshold of entering the world economic system and ties need to be built on proper economic foundations.

The discussion moves briefly to the subject of the Volga Germans and the importance of Russia's attitude not being misconstrued; then on to the Middle East and how this could be a true oasis of riches if extremist attitudes are avoided on all sides. Russian diplomacy could facilitate the peace process, now that matters are no longer distorted by the former political rivalry with the United States and now that Russia has relations with Israel.

Incidentally, he adds, their ex-colleague on this program Aleksandr Bovin, now ambassador to Israel, is going down very well there.

Levin issues another reminder that, amid all their internal changes, the CIS countries should not forget about the wider world and their place in it. Shishlin backs this, commenting that it serves no purpose to look back; the CIS countries should be looking forward to acting as an authoritative group of countries in the world.

Commonwealth

Member States' Ministers Meet in Moscow

Arguments Center on Military

LD1001230692 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2100 GMT 10 Jan 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] The foreign ministers of the Commonwealth countries met in Moscow today without special ceremony to discuss jointly how to interpret the recent Minsk agreements. The arguments centered mainly on military matters, including the Black Sea Fleet. Part of the former Soviet elite, diplomats, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials today dealt with what used to be called internal Soviet matters.

[Correspondent Yu. Reshetnikov] The Commonwealth states' foreign ministers discussed the issues which are causing difficulties in relations between the former Union republics and which are threatening to wreck the earlier accords. In particular there is the problem of the Commonwealth of Independent States creating their own armies, and also arguments over sharing out the former Union's property abroad.

When arriving for the meeting, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko expressed optimism with regard to the friction that has emerged with the Russian Government over the Armed Forces of the former Union located in Ukraine.

[Begin Zlenko recording] I do not think there is conflict between us. We are simply clarifiying how to interpret the decisions and agreements that we arrived at during the Minsk conference of heads of state and governments. [end recording]

[Reshetnikov] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, who demonstrated his splendid knowledge of English to journalists, said that he did not see any insurmountable problems between members of the Commonwealth.

[Announcer] The conference was held behind closed doors. It is known only that Ukraine is softening its stand on the Black Sea Fleet, but is alarmed that President Yeltsin has abandoned diplomacy and is now talking not of the Commonwealth's but Russia's right to the Fleet.

Preliminary Results

LD1001233492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2229 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Moscow, 10 Jan (TASS)—A meeting of the foreign ministers of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] member states was held today in Moscow. In accordance with decisions made by the conference of CIS heads of state and government held in Minsk on 30 December 1991, the ministers examined a broad range of military-political, organizational-technical, and financial matters.

There was a detailed discussion of questions concerning the ratification of the START and CFE treaties.

The ministers exchanged views regarding the state of the working group for the organizational-technical preparation and conduct of meetings of the CIS Council of Heads of State and Council of Heads of Government.

The first meeting of the interstate commission for elaborating criteria and principles relating to the distribution of property abroad belonging to the former USSR has been set for 20 January. It is to be held in Minsk.

The ministers agreed to conduct close consultations for purposes of further developing joint action in the foreign political sphere within the framework of the Commonwealth, such consultations to be at both the ministerial and expert levels.

To Reassemble 24 Jan

LD1201161992 Moscow TASS in English 1602 GMT 12 Jan 92

[By TASS observer Ludmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow January 12 TASS—The Commonwealth leaders will meet in Minsk on January 24 to discuss a wide range of issues, including the pace of economic reform, sources close to the Belarussian leadership said.

"We will welcome what has happened if the Commonwealth does not break up the existing ties while strengthening the sovereignty of republics," Vladimir Lukin, head of the Russian parliamentary Committee for International Affairs and Foreign Economic Activities, said.

Many view the Commonwealth as a political declaration, since its members failed to adopt a charter because of the "uncertainty of the transitional period".

Instead, they formed a Council of Heads of State and a Council of Heads of Government, which, however, have proven unable to reach a consensus on key issues so far.

The Commonwealth foreign ministers met in Minsk on January 10 to discuss the fate of the former Soviet Union's property and try to settle the dispute between Russia and Ukraine over the Black Sea Fleet.

"The Commonwealth is being built step by step along the path of cooperation," Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said, commenting on the results of the meeting.

The Commonwealth ministers of transportation will also hold a meeting to find ways to solve urgent problems in passenger and freight transportation.

A special group will soon be set up to coordinate with Commonwealth experts the agenda of sessions of the council of heads of state and the council of heads of government and documents to be discussed by these bodies.

Cancellation of CIS Army Maneuvers Confirmed

LD1001234292 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2200 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The General Staff of the Commonwealth of Independent States has informed the Lithuanian Embassy in Moscow that the earlier planned maneuvers on Lithuanian territory have been cancelled.

This was also confirmed to Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius by former USSR Northwest Army commander, General Valeriy Mironov.

Sports Officials Agree on Olympic Participation

LD1101014192 Moscow TASS in English 1958 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Moscow January 10 TASS—The sport officials of the Commonwealth member states discussed the participation in the upcoming Olympics on January 8 and 9 in the city of Raubichi (close to Minsk) and adopted the following resolution, which was received by TASS on Friday [10 January]:

1. The period of republican sport federations joining international sport bodies may last for a long time and end in two years in accordance with the existing international federation guidelines, [phrase as received]

2. A mechanism of dissolving former Soviet sport federations should be created with due account of the interests of the independent states.

Participants in the meeting unanimously agreed to recommend:

1. All sport federations to create councils of federation presidents from all Commonwealth states' to elect council chairmen,

2. To vest with the presidential councils the right to introduce their joint teams to international and continental sport organisations for their participation in Olympic games and other official tournaments of 1992,

3. To create a council of sport managers from the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] member states with an average of 30 employees (the All-Commonwealth Sport Council), which will become a coordinating organization for the period of the 1992 Olympic games,

4. To ask the Council of Heads of Government of the Commonwealth member states to approve the establishment of the above mentioned organisation giving it all rights to use the bank accounts of the former Soviet "Gossport".

The document was signed by heads of sport federations of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Uzbekistan and Ukraine.

The resolution was also agreed upon by representatives from Armenia, Moldova, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

Transport Ministers Agree on Railway Tariffs

LD1101053292 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1855 GMT 10 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Andrey Troitskiy]

[Text] Moscow, 10 Jan (TASS)—The transport ministers of the Commonwealth of Independent States members have decided to request that the heads of government of the independent states support proposals of specialists on the coordinated increase of railway tariffs for the direct interstate transportation of freight from 1 February 1992 to 8.3 times, and for the transportation of passengers 3.7 times, the level of December 1991. A group of specialists has been charged with preparing proposals on the introduction of new tariffs for air transport. The transport ministers' conference was held in Moscow. It has been proposed to the bodies of transport management of the Commonwealth members that they determine a list of functions delegated to an interstate body for railway transport.

Importance of Unified Power Grid Emphasized

PM1001150792 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1300 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Report by A. Galkin and V. Gaydamovich; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] After the collapse of the USSR, much of what used to be Union property has become a bone of contention. The fate of the unified Army and Navy is just one example. The future of the unified power grid is equally important. But now it, too, is in doubt.

[Galkin] Here is the control center of the former USSR's unified power grid. It is from here that commands are issued—and so far they are still being obeyed—to switch power from Siberia, for example, where night is falling and enterprises are shutting up shop, to the European part of the country. Later, the energy flow changes direction. Or, if there should be an accident somewhere in the Caucasus, then a surge of power is immediately sent to the deenergized zone from Ukraine. But soon this situation, which any specialist will tell you is logical, could change. Politicians from the new sovereign states seem intent on dividing up the power complex among the individual republics.

[A.F. Bondarenko, chief controller] So far we have no intergovernmental agreements on supplying electricity, no agreements on the price for supplying electricity, and the lack of a multilateral agreement on coordinating our work is particularly alarming.

[Galkin] Already today, the rift in economic links between former Union republics has led to a fall in electricity production. In order to somehow compensate for the shortage, certain industrial centers have transferred the weekend to other days in the week. In some places enterprises have closed down altogether, and the workers have gone on vacation. But a carve-up of the power network now would merely exacerbate the situation further still. The cold and gloom of plant shop floors would spread to homes and apartments. Despite everything, we still cling to the typically Soviet ambition of proving that we are better than anyone else on the planet, rejecting foreign experience. The United States and Canada have an integrated power grid which was developed over many years and with great difficulty. It took a while for private power station owners to realize that they would profit most from this. West Europe is trying to set up a control center like ours. Admittedly, the Soviet Union's unified power system was created for the needs of a unitary state, but this state's collapse does not have to entail the automatic disintegration of everything and anything. Of course, it is possible to have separate power systems. But they would have to have unlimited reserves in order to guard against any unexpected emergencies. This task is beyond our half-wrecked economies. Of course, national identity should be allowed to express its independence in everything—except when it runs counter to common sense and objective economic laws.

Commentary on Questionable Viability of Alliance

LD1201092692 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 2010 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Commentary by Viktor Yenikeyev]

[Text] The problems of the Army, Navy, economy and others that have surfaced in the relations between the independent member states of the Commonwealth replacing the USSR have called in question whether this new alliance will last. Viktor Yenikeyev comments:

Nobody expected that the newly founded Commonwealth will have a calm and bright life from the start. However, few could imagine that its problems will snowball. True, a commonwealth is not a union. But [words indistinct] decades of coexistence, if not friendship, have laid the basis for further cooperation and fruitful development on the basis of diversified and sincere relationship between the former Soviet republics. The answer yes that seems so evident looks rather unrealistic against a background of the contradictions that have emerged in relations between Russia and Ukraine; for instance, the dispute over the Army and the Black Sea Fleet. One should bear in mind that Moldova and Azerbaijan, too, have declared their intention to have their own armies. The leader of the Republic of Belarus, Stanislav Shushkevich, too, has announced such plans.

Differences in the economy are yet deeper and wider. In a situation like this, the program for a transition to a market economy is likely to become a means of achieving a better life and a catalyst of destructive processes in the Commonwealth of Independent States at the same time. To this, one must add the problems of various autonomies and minorities which make themselves felt here and there. Sometimes it may seem that a large share of the population of the former Soviet Union is in the spell of a narcotic, making it do unexplainable things. Not only individual cities but individual districts of these cities are quite serious in their intention to declare themselves free economic zones. The press says that some of them even contemplate having their own money.

It is quite clear that there is a long way to go toward civilized society. Evolution, a nonviolent transfer that would make it possible to establish new political, economic and humanitarian ties between members of the Commonwealth and their citizens will take time. The current period is of great importance to each member of the Commonwealth and the Commonwealth as a whole. It is very important to maintain the agreements concluded in Minsk and Alma-Ata, which proved so difficult.

We must resist the temptation to place our own independence above the independence of others. This infantile disorder of democracy will inevitably be phased out by the understanding of how effective concerted actions can be. The experience of European, American and Asian countries confirms this. It has taken the Europeans centuries to achieve what today is prospering European society. We have our own advantages. During the years of Soviet government the system of management by command has established in some cases, despite itself, close cooperation between the republics.

It would be very unwise to reject the idea of building up from what has been achieved. This is true of the Army, the economy and all other spheres of life. The Commonwealth will have no future if it fails to do this.

'Unfinished Edifice of CIS' Threatened

PM1001103192 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Jan 92 p 1

[Report by Miroslav Buzhkevich: "Storm Warning Received Not Only by Ships of the Black Sea Fleet"]

[Text] The saying "the right hand does not know what the left is doing" seems to be out of date. With some political leaders, the right hand, as it signs the latest agreement, knows perfectly well that the left will soon cross out that signature.

That is what has happened with the Armed Forces of the former USSR. In Minsk the sides decided to leave the strategic forces—missile and air formations and a number of other Army and Navy structures—under common command. A few days later, however, Ukrainian President L. Kravchuk, commander in chief of the republic's newly created Armed Forces, announced that all former Soviet Army formations stationed on Ukrainian territory, including some of those which are regarded as strategic forces, plus the Black Sea Fleet, are being transferred to his "control" and must swear allegiance to the Ukrainian people.

I am not going to dwell on the serious military-strategic consequences of this step which, specialists believe, will weaken the overall defense potential of the whole new Commonwealth and will affect the equilibrium of the world community. The crisis that has emerged also gives rise to far-reaching political consequences.

Many servicemen now in Ukraine rightly ask: Why should they, as Russians, Kazakhs, Belarussians, Uzbeks, Tatars, and so forth, swear allegiance to the Ukrainian people? After all, they have already sworn allegiance to all the peoples of the former USSR, the vast majority of whom now belong to the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States]. Ukrainian politicians and military figures are saying: If you do not want to, we will not force you to. Either resign or leave the republic. But where can they go? Why should an officer—a professional soldier—have to wreck his own future and his family's life because of someone's ambitions for power. I do not think that what is happening will reduce tension in people's lives. On the contrary, it increases the sense of uncertainty over the future not only among servicemen but among many millions of other people, too. After all, it is clear that the dispute over the Black Sea Fleet is primarily a crisis in political, interstate relations between Russia and Ukraine.

Almost 350 years ago, 8 January 1654, the Pereyaslavskaya Rada headed by cossack leader Bogdan Khmelnytskiy proclaimed that Ukraine was joining Russia and an era of friendship and harmony between the two fraternal Slav peoples was beginning. However, no matter how strong that friendship became, the embers of the former discord had not been finally extinguished. They were kept smoldering by inveterate nationalists on both sides. Where is the guarantee that now, when anarchism, total license, and lack of restraint are developing under the guise of democracy, those embers will not flare up again, producing all-consuming flames? Any interethnic conflict is destructive. But if two powerful states—Russia and Ukraine—become embroiled in it, there will be a real catastrophe for the CIS which will have worldwide repercussions. The fuse here could be provided by the dispute over dividing up missiles and fighters, cruisers and submarines. Perhaps the leaders drawn into the conflict should give serious thought to that?

They are not the only ones who should. I quite agree with the apt remark of a foreign correspondent. In his opinion, the leaders of the CIS member states see in its title the word "independent" above all else. It is the sovereignty of their state that is the paramount concern of each of them. Their own interests alone take priority. But the first word in the name is "Commonwealth." The states united not merely to stress, appropriately and otherwise: We are sovereign. The Commonwealth, according to its creators' idea, should help their peoples get through this difficult time more painlessly and swiftly. Unfortunately, events involving the Black Sea Fleet demonstrate the opposite. Attention is drawn to the fact that the dispute between Russia and Ukraine is taking place under the silent gaze of the heads of the other CIS states, as though this does not affect them. Perhaps they do not want to infringe anyone's sovereignty or send their colleagues letters and statements.

When a storm is brewing ships at sea receive a storm warning. In the past few days such a warning has come from Kiev and Sevastopol. There is a real threat that the squall of political and other ambitions could destroy the as yet unfinished edifice of the CIS. That cannot be allowed—otherwise irreparable disaster will follow. There is only one way out here: The leaders of the Commonwealth states, primarily Russia and Ukraine, must show wisdom, flexibility, and a capacity for rational compromise.

'Euphoria' Over Emergence of CIS Short-Lived

LD1301030692 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1310 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Commentary by Vitaliy Gurov—read by announcer]

[Text] The euphoria following the emergence of the new Commonwealth of Independent States—the CIS—last December appears to be short-lived now that larger issues which were pushed into the background have resurfaced. One is the future of the armed forces; the other is the countries' besetting ethnic troubles; and on top of the two is the big question of how to coordinate economic policies within the whole of the Commonwealth. Comment is by Vitaliy Gurov, and this is what he writes:

With each former Soviet republic gaining its independence from Moscow, the easiest way—it would seem—is to steer one's own canoe by pursuing independent reform and economic policy, but things are not as simple as that given the republics' geographic proximity, long-running trade, a high degree of economic integrity, and a single monetary system. No wonder any attempt at updating trade relations tends to irritate other members of the Commonwealth. One example is a widespread negative response to Russia's move to abandon price controls as of 2 January. Most of the former Soviet republics, including Russia itself, are not ready to accept the decision, which provides for further measures including privatization and government deregulation and the transfer of the land to private owners. None of that can be enforced straight away, before the ground is made clear. Russia's continued monopoly of money minting helps it bring implicit or explicit pressure on its Commonwealth partners. To counter this, some of the republics plan to take measures to protect their own consumer markets. Ukraine, for example, has introduced multi-use coupons as a prototype of its own currency, with one coupon now fetching 10 rubles or 10 of these being exchanged for one dollar. Belarus and Kazakhstan are also playing with the idea of introducing local coupons. The coupons will cause a large exodus of rubles to Russia and other republics still using rubles and, by definition, to further inflation, now put at an annual 450 percent and still on the rise. Russia will no doubt retaliate to protect its own market, which many describe as the start of a wholesale economic war. Away from this strong description, it is to be hoped the Commonwealth leaders will try to avert one by compromise and mutual concessions.

Baltics

Army Withdrawal, Foreign Relations Addressed

LD1301073192 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1310 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Commentary by Vitaliy Gurov]

[Text] Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia are the three former Soviet republics who first felt the taste of their newly-gained sovereignty and the economic jargon that goes with it, including the language of free prices and hard currency. One major problem they face is how to do business with suppliers or customers of Russia or the Central Asian republics. Earlier, there was nothing wrong in Russian crude oil being refined in Estonia, and then reexported to other countries. Examples of this kind are many. There's also the question of citizenship, a thorny issue awaiting its solution, let alone the big headache of what's to be done with an estimated 200,000 troops of the former Soviet Union deployed in the three Baltic states. These are likely to be stationed there for quite some time, despite calls for their immediate withdrawal. The chairman of the Officers' Council of the Baltic Military District, Colonel Vladimir Kandelevskiy, says it will take at least three years to comply with the demand for troop withdrawals. The leaders of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia at the end of last Sunday's [12 January] meeting in the seaside town of Jurmala demanded that all former Soviet troops be pulled back, and their weapons and hardware left behind. Last November's talks on the withdrawal issue were suspended but no date was set for new ones. The commanders of the Baltic Military District may well have to sell part of the Army installations and property there, estimated at 150 billion rubles, to be able to provide housing for the departing troops. Colonel Kandilevskiy says the Army is being put under pressure by the Baltic states and Moscow—each claim that the property is theirs. In other words, there's a wide range of issues souring relations between the Baltic states and the Commonwealth of Independent States, but these must be resolved by negotiation and fairly soon. All sides appear to be keen to see this happen as soon as possible. The Russian-speaking community of the Baltic states is tired of uncertainty and wants guarantees for its own future. For their part, the Balts who are also keen to see an early solution to the controversial issues fear that the current instability within the Commonwealth may delay it.

Military

Clarification on Taking Oath Sent to Forces

LD1001184792 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1800 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Report by TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[Text] Moscow, 10 Jan (TASS)—A TASS correspondent was told by the press service of the commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] that a clarification on taking the military oath was sent out to the forces today. It says, in particular, that the text of the oath and the procedure for taking it were earlier passed on for preliminary study and discussion in military collectives. It is planned that the proposals and recommendations worked out in the course of the discussion should be considered at an all-Army conference of representatives of assemblies of officers set for 17 January in Moscow.

The forces are instructed not to have personnel take the military oath before that date, or until a final decision is adopted.

All-Army Officer Meeting Postponed to 17 Jan

LD1101164992 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1134 GMT 11 Jan 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text] The all-Army officer meeting is being shifted from January 14 to January 17. The official reason for the postponement has been given as follows: Children's Christmas holidays will be held until January 15 inclusive, at the Kremlin's Palace of Congresses, where it is planned to hold the meeting.

Unofficial sources reported that the staff of the CIS Armed Forces commander-in-chief is preparing draft documents to be adopted at the meeting. One of the documents expresses the participants' support for the idea of transferring all Armed Forces to the Russian jurisdiction and letting all troops take the Russian vow of allegiance. The issue of creating a Russian army may also be taken up by the all-Army officer meeting. Many leaders of states—CIS members, invited to the meeting, displayed a sharply negative attitude towards the very idea of such a meeting, therefore they, according to a number of military experts, will not attend it.

In answer to the telegram sent by Aviation Marshal Shaposhnikov to the troops, in which he wrote of the necessity to bring officers and soldiers to a vow of allegiance to Russia, Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev on January 9 suspended the taking of the oath of allegiance by troops in the republican territory. Chairman of the Belarus Supreme Soviet Stanislaw

Shushkevich on the same day instructed parliamentary commissions and the republican Defense Ministry to work out appropriate documents which will not let us become hostages to such telegrams any more.

Chernavin Grants News Conference on Navy

Details Given

LD1001190992 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1637 GMT 10 Jan 92

[From the "Panorama" program]

[Text] About a half hour ago, we reported on a news conference given today by Admiral of the Fleet Vladimir Chernavin, commander in chief of the Navy. Now we have our correspondent Tatyana Chemodanova on the line. She has the details for us.

[Chemodanova] The Ukrainian Government's decision to make officers and men of the three military districts and the Black Sea Fleet swear a new oath is still controversial. Today's news conference by Admiral Chernavin, commander in chief of the Navy, was fresh evidence of this. Yesterday I attended a news conference held at Ukraine's permanent mission, at which journalists were assured that the swearing of a new oath by the Black Sea Fleet and the military districts was strictly in accordance with the Minsk accords.

Today, however, Admiral Chernavin stressed that, as a component part of the Navy, the Black Sea Fleet belongs to the strategic forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States, an agreement on which was signed in Minsk on 30 December, and should not be handed over to any individual member state of the Commonwealth. This is, in fact, stipulated in Article 1 of the agreement. Yesterday's news conference at the Ukrainian mission was told that there were no nuclear weapons aboard the Black Sea Fleet and that the Fleet is not a strategic force.

Today it was repeated that the Black Sea Fleet does carry nuclear weapons and, most important of all, the Fleet fulfills a strategic mission protecting the strategic interests of all states belonging to the Commonwealth.

When Admiral Chernavin was asked by a journalist what he thought of Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin's assertion yesterday that the Black Sea Fleet was, is, and will remain Russian, he said that he welcomed the statement, but that the problem, the problem of the Fleet's ownership, should be resolved at the highest level. Ukraine's argument that it owns the whole thing is very dubious since the Fleet was developed by all the peoples of the country. If you take that attitude, why shouldn't Russia claim the fleet, since it always used to be Russian?

All the assertions that 90 percent of the officers and men are prepared to swear the new oath—as was claimed at yesterday's press conference at the Ukrainian mission—are farfetched and totally without foundation. Even the suggestion that a few may have taken the Ukrainian oath is incorrect. Not a single sailor has taken the Ukrainian oath yet, the news conference was told. If you abandon emotion and ambition and look real facts in the face, it is difficult to see how an oath of allegiance to Ukraine can be sworn when representatives of 46 nationalities are serving with the Black Sea Fleet. Over 73 percent of the officers are Russian. Only 22 percent are Ukrainian.

Admiral Chernavin stressed several times that the Navy ought not be dragged into a political confrontation. Attempts to solve the problem by force could lead to a social explosion even more terrible than that seen up to now. The problem should be resolved on the basis of commonsense.

Proposes Ukrainian Navy

LD1001225492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Report by Vyacheslav Osipov, including recorded passages from news conference by Admiral Vladimir Chernavin, commander in chief of the Navy, on 10 January; place not given—introduction by unidentified studio announcer]

[Text] The situation in the Armed Forces of the former USSR remains the main topic of discussion at the moment. This has come about as a result of the decision by a number of republics to take control of the troops stationed on their territory and make them swear a new oath. A special conflict has arisen over the Black Sea Fleet, which the Ukraine is claiming. Admiral Vladimir Chernavin, the commander in chief of the Navy, has described the situation with the Fleet as acute. He did not rule out the possibility that the haste with which the Fleet's officers and men are being made to swear a new oath of allegiance to the Ukrainian people might lead to negative consequences.

Addressing a news conference today, Admiral Chernavin said this situation had arisen only because the Ukraine was not honoring the decisions which it signed during the Minsk meeting. Our correspondent Vyacheslav Osipov has the details:

[Osipov] To give Admiral Chernavin his due, it should be noted that during his conversation with journalists he did not merely criticize the Ukraine's actions toward the Black Sea Fleet, but also spoke in detail about his proposals for the creation of a Ukrainian navy—especially as the commander in chief originally put forth his proposals long before the present conflict arose.

[Begin Chernavin recording] I put this proposal to the Ukrainian leadership. I told them that I supported their wish to have their own Ukrainian navy. Furthermore, I offered them my services and assistance. We will give you all sorts of organizational and material help, I said. We will also hand over warships. We will give you the utmost assistance in this. That is what I said. When Kravchuk, now president of the Ukraine, visited the Crimea during the election campaign, he addressed our sailors in Sevastopol. We organized such a meeting for him.

What warships does the Ukraine need, he was asked. What will your attitude be? He repeated several times: We do not need large warships; we need small coastal vessels for limited functions. But when he was elected president, he suddenly began saying: No, we insist on having all the warships. [end recording]

[Osipov] Admiral Chernavin said the Ukrainian side had no grounds for claiming the Black Sea Fleet is not a strategic force.

[Begin Chernavin recording] This is the first of the assertions which bewilders us. We have held talks with them. We have gone there several times. It was explained to us that there are no nuclear weapons on the Black Sea Fleet. We told them that it does have nuclear weapons. This whole approach, the question of whether it has strategic weapons or not, is incorrect. It is a dilettante's approach, the approach of people who do not really understand this problem, who have not managed to grasp it. [end recording]

[Osipov] The Ukrainian leadership constantly says nobody will be forced to take the oath. Everything is being done on a voluntary basis.

[Begin Chernavin recording] They are saying that anybody who refuses to swear the oath of allegiance to the Ukraine will have to leave the Ukraine, because they will not allow military representatives of a foreign state on their territory. Can things really be done that way these days? About 30 percent of personnel currently serving with the Black Sea Fleet are Ukrainian. What are the rest going to do? What is going to happen to the warships and units? What is going to happen to the nuclear weapons? What is going to happen to the missiles and shells, and so on. Something will have to be done with them. Are they really to be abandoned to the mercy of fate? [end recording]

[Osipov] So, the dispute over the Black Sea Fleet continues. The sides will come to some sort of solution, it goes without saying, especially as President Kravchuk has, apparently, not ruled out the possibility of having a joint navy on the Black Sea. More important is the question of whose flag will fly over the Navy's ships. According to international regulations, every warship has to fly the flag of the state to which it belongs. And to whom do the warships—and the hundreds of thousands of sailors and weapons, including nuclear weapons, aboard these warships—belong? Which flag will be hoisted? This question is racking my brain at the moment.

Another 'Canard'

PM1301124792 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Jan 92 p 2

[Report by special correspondent Colonel Viktor Baranets: "Bring the Cruiser Up!"]

[Excerpts] The strident argument about the fate of the Black Sea Fleet is becoming increasingly acute. This was confirmed at a press conference last Friday, 10 January, by Fleet Admiral V. Chernavin, commander in chief of the Navy. [passage omitted]

To my question about whether there is any basis to the rumors that all the bank accounts out of which salaries to servicemen in Ukraine are paid had been frozen, Vladimir Nikolayevich replied:

"That is another 'canard.' People are getting their money on time and in full. This matter is strictly controlled."

Black Sea Fleet Command Holds News Conference

Transition Period Necessary

LD1001154592 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1427 GMT 10 Nov 92

[Text] Another news conference was held today in Sevastopol by the Black Sea Fleet Command. Following their visit to Kiev, the position of the Black Sea Fleet Command has stayed the same, Admiral Igor Kasatonov stated at the news conference. This is his second news conference in the past three days. Furthermore, while the previous one was attended only by local reporters or correspondents of central and republican newspaper permanently based in the region, today a whole detachment of newspapermen and television and radio journalists—more than 20—arrived from Moscow.

In his speech, Kasatonov said once again that before a political decision is made, the Fleet will remain under the command of Fleet Admiral Chernavin, the naval commander in chief, and Air Marshal Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the Commonwealth Armed Forces.

In reply to the question of how he views the statement by the Russian president that the Black Sea Fleet was, is, and will always be Russian, the commander said these words have been received by the fleet positively. At the same time, Kasatonov stressed that he is treating with understanding the desire of Ukraine to have its own fleet, and is ready to assist it in this, but that a transition period must be defined and politicians are required to have their say on this issue.

To Stay 'To the End'

PM1201160092 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 11 Jan 92 p 1

[Report by I. Chernyak: "Admiral Kasatonov Remains With Fleet to End"]

[Excerpts] On 5 January the Ukrainian Government began getting the troops stationed on the republic's territory to take the oath. In the evening of the same day news agencies throughout the world carried a sensational report: Black Sea Fleet Commander Igor Kasatonov has refused to fulfill L. Kravchuk's instructions. [passage omitted]

At a conference with L. Kravchuk 9 January the "mutinous admiral" reaffirmed his position. According to some reports, the Ukrainian president backtracked, growling something to the effect that the fleet could also be a "joint" fleet. However, in my view it will be difficult for I. Kasatonov: "Differences of opinion and vacillations" cannot be ruled out in naval collectives—opinions like "It is better to protect the southern borders than the northern ones" are far from uncommon.

Yesterday Admiral I. Kasatonov refuted rumors that he is planning to change his place of service: "I will stay with the seamen to the end."

Kapitanets Article Published

PM1301112592 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 11 Jan 92 pp 1-2

[Article by Fleet Admiral I. Kapitanets, first deputy commander in chief of the Navy: "An Indivisible Navy"]

[Text] Could I ever have thought, having given 40 years of my life to the Navy, that the historic song "The Varangian" would have a new ring to it? "Arise, Black Sea Fleet sailors, the bands are playing, the final parade is upon us..." It is possible to take different attitudes to the song, first heard two days ago on the frenzied "600 Seconds" program, but the fact that it reflects certain sentiments must not be disregarded.

The Black Sea theater in itself was and is of great strategic and political significance. This is why from time immemorial Russia has maintained a strong fleet there. The Black Sea straits alone are important, for they represent the only possible outlet for our Fleet—both military and civilian—to the Mediterranean and to the ocean beyond. This is a very important military transport maritime line of communication, vital to the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States]. The Black Sea straits have already been at least an indirect cause of two bloody wars—the Crimean War and World War II [as published]. In addition, they are close to the Balkans—a very important and eternally complex knot of political contradictions and a source of military conflicts.

It must also be borne in mind that historically the territories adjacent to the Black Sea coast of Ukraine and the Crimea were never part of Ukraine prior to its voluntary joining with Russia in accordance with the decisions of the Pereyaslavl Council. They were liberated from Turkish dominion as a result of the victories of the Russian Army and then of the Black Sea Fleet in the series of Russo-Turkish wars in the 18th and 19th centuries. It was then that our forefathers, the outstanding Army and naval commanders P. Rumyantsev-Zadunayskiy, G. Potemkin-Tavricheskiy, A. Suvorov-Rymnikskiy, M. Kutuzov, F. Ushakov, P. Nakhimov, V. Kornilov, S. Makarov, and many others, brought fame to Russian arms and to themselves.

The outstanding Russian statesman and military figure G. Potemkin-Tavricheskiy is rightly considered the founder of the Black Sea Fleet. It was under him that Kherson and the Nikolayev shipyards were built and that the Crimea was joined to Russia. In 1783 the city of Sevastopol—the future main base of the Black Sea Fleet—was founded on the Crimea's Akhtiar Bay. The Black Sea Fleet's first warships were built under G. Potemkin's leadership, and a Black Sea Squadron under the command of F. Ushakov achieved the first victories over the Turkish Fleet in this theater.

I could speak endlessly about our traditions and our heroic past. The Black Sea Fleet sailors stayed true to the traditions during the years of the Great Patriotic War too.

It is fair to say the following today in defense of the Black Sea Fleet: Ukraine is simply not in a position to maintain it, even under everyday conditions—that requires all kinds of support, repairs, modernization, shipbuilding, etc. Judge for yourselves: As many as 1,000 or even more plants are involved in building an ocean-going ship of the cruiser or destroyer type. It also takes tens and hundreds of contract organizations, located on the territory of practically all the Commonwealth states, to repair such a ship. Add to this the problems of manning, training inducted personnel, training officer cadres, research and development in the fleet's interests, etc. Is all this within the reach of Ukraine alone? The fleet will simply die in two or three years or, rather, will drown at its moorings.

Summing up the aforesaid, I wish to emphasize the following:

First, under the Minsk agreement the Black Sea Fleet, as a constituent part of the Navy, is rated, together with other large strategic formations and branches of the Armed Forces, with the strategic forces. Second, the Black Sea Fleet, as a large operational-strategic formation, resolves tasks in the interests of the entire Commonwealth in its own zone of operations (the Mediterranean and the Black Sea), as the possible enemy's groupings have not changed. Third, all the Commonwealth states have contributed and do contribute to developing and maintaining the Black Sea Fleet's combat readiness. Fourth, the Navy has a single infrastructure, and it must not be divided up, as the fleet was created by the scientific and economic potential of the whole country. Fifth, the Black Sea Fleet is the successor to the Russian Black Sea Fleet created in 1783 and has never belonged to Ukraine. Sixth, Ukraine alone is not entitled to form naval forces in the Black Sea on a territorial basis, as other Commonwealth states also have access to the Black Sea coast. Seventh, mindful of the fact that Ukraine, as a sovereign state, can set up naval forces to maintain day-to-day procedures, to protect the coast and the economic zone, etc., the Navy is prepared to assist it in this.

Why is this such an acute question today? I am a participant in the talks on the future of the Black Sea Fleet, and so I know well how the talks process shaped up and why it got into an impasse. As already reported, delegations of the former USSR Ministry of Defense and the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense met in Kiev 2 and 3 January. Literally at once the latter took a one-sided stand and made a one-sided interpretation of the agreements adopted in Minsk. This concerned, first, the principle of forming Ukraine's armed forces—they declared that everything on their territory belongs to Ukraine; second, the concept of strategic forces; third, the schedule and procedure for transferring to Ukraine control of the troops on its territory; fourth, the military oath.

We tried unsuccessfully to show that the really huge military grouping and the strategic reserves in Ukraine belong to all the former republics of the USSR. The Ukrainian side did not acknowledge the fact that the Black Sea Fleet is part of the Commonwealth's strategic forces. In vain I told them that the NATO groupings—the 6th Fleet, the 5th Fleet, and the 6th Operational-Tactical Air Command—are still in place on our southwest salient and that the Americans have recently built up the grouping of nuclear-powered missile submarines there, and all this targeted on our homeland, on the CIS. The Ukrainian delegation disagreed with our arguments.

This stance, hiding behind words about Ukraine's sovereignty and state independence, has led to an impasse. I have stated clearly that the Fleet will remain indivisible, according to the letter and spirit of the Minsk agreements. Such firmness meets with understanding and support not only among Navy sailors but also, gratifyingly, among many of our compatriots. "The Black Sea Fleet was, is, and will remain Russian," B.N. Yeltsin has declared. We believe that this firm and principled stance by the Russian leadership, which will, we would like to believe, be supported by the states of our Commonwealth, will improve the atmosphere and remove the tension that has been created around the Black Sea Fleet.

Let us recall that it has already had in its history an instance similar to the present situation. In 1918 the Ukrainian Central Council attempted to subordinate the Black Sea Fleet to itself and even appointed a tsarist naval officer with the rank of captain second rank as commander of the Fleet. On arriving in Sevastopol, he hoisted the commander's official flag above his residence and attempted to join the Fleet's command. However, the Fleet's entire personnel refused to carry out his orders, and the newly fledged commander was forced to decamp from Sevastopol. The Fleet's subordination to the Central Ukrainian Council did not take place.

I believe that everything will soon return to normal and that the situation in and around the Black Sea Fleet will be normalized. We Navy men are the first to vote in favor of a show of statesmanship from our politicians, so that the arguments over the fleet do not, God forbid, go so far as a confrontation—Ukrainians and Russians have nothing to divide up, because we have always lived in friendship and fraternity and defended our freedom together in hard times. Representatives of approximately 70 nationalities—above all from Russia and Ukraine—serve in the Black Sea Fleet today. I am inclined to regard what is happening today as being problems of the first steps of statehood, as a kind of disease of infancy of the sovereignty and independence of new states. Like any disease, it will soon pass.

Yeltsin View Shared by 'Overwhelming Majority'

OW1101185492 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1633 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Deputy Commander of the Black Sea Fleet, Counter-Admiral [as received] Vyacheslav Alekseyev has expressed support for Russian president's statement that the Black Sea Fleet should belong to Russia. In an interview with INTERFAX in Sevastopol Alekseyev called the Black Sea Fleet "an important integral part of the Army," noting that this Fleet of the former Soviet Union which "has always been Russian" by no means can be divided.

In the opinion of Alekseyev, this position is shared by an overwhelming majority of the Fleet's officers. He expressed hope that the Ukrainian leadership will display common sense and realism, since "there have never been and will never be conflicts between the Russian and Ukrainian peoples."

This view was supported at the Friday [10 January] meeting between the commander of the Black Sea Fleet, Admiral Igor Kasatonov and the Supreme Command of the Fleet.

Several dozens of demonstrators gathered in front of the building where the meeting was being held to demand that the 1954 decision on the transfer of Crimea to Ukraine be canceled, the Russian TV be broadcast to Crimea and Ukraine give up its claims for the Black Sea Fleet.

Nationalization of Air Defense Forces Pondered

PM1301115792 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 11 Jan 92 p 1

[Interview with Colonel Viktor Demedyuk, head of the Operational-Tactical Research Center in the Air Defense Forces Main Staff, by Vasiliy Izgarshev at the PRAVDA offices; date not given; under the "Topic of the Day" rubric: "Unease in the Air Defense Forces: It May Not Be Just Rust Who Will Fly In"—first paragraph is introduction:]

[Text] Colonel Viktor Demedyuk heads the Operational-Tactical Research Center in the Air Defense Forces Main Staff. Possibly he is more aware than anyone else of the consequences of the incipient splitting up of the Armed Forces into national garrisons and barracks. That is what made this officer come and see us at PRAVDA.

[Izgarshev] Are the Air Defense Forces in Ukraine also under threat of nationalization?

[Demedyuk] No less than the Black Sea Fleet...

[Izgarshev] And what may happen as a result?

[Demedyuk] This is some kind of obsession! No one wants to realize that the consequences of the nationalization of Air Defense units and subunits are simply unpredictable. Let the reader judge for himself. We spent years forming an air defense system. It was structured in a strictly layered way [eshelonirovanno]. Furthermore, the frontline has the best hardware and the best experts, as it should. That is how it needs to be. After all, they have to detect the target, join battle with it, and destroy it. And suddenly a breach develops in the frontline.

[Izgarshev] Are you not exaggerating, Vladimir [as published] Karpovich?

[Demedyuk] How can I be exaggerating when the Ukrainian leaders are demanding that the Air Defense units be transferred to their jurisdiction, cutting off communications with the central command posts, and so on?

[Izgarshev] And what would you say about the consequences of the nationalization of the Air Defense by individual states?

[Demedyuk] All the leading countries in the world are adopting measures to join forces in the sphere of air defense. A unified air defense system has been formed by the NATO countries, and the joint U.S.-Canadian Air Defense System (NORAD) is being modernized. It is only the independent states of our Commonwealth that are trying—not without success—to abolish the unified Air Defense system. And yet it was formed over a period of many years through the efforts of all the peoples of the former Union.

[Izgarshev] Its installations and units are stationed on the territories of all the independent states and are linked in a unified layered system.

[Demedyuk] Of course, air defense is a very complex automated control system with hundreds of command posts that are on around-the-clock alert duty and are capable of putting into operation powerful antiballistic missile defense, space defense, antiaircraft missile troops, and fighter aviation weapons systems in a matter of minutes.

[Izgarshev] So no one thinks that it is simply impossible for all of the independent states in the Commonwealth to create an air defense system or that they cannot afford to?

[Demedyuk] We estimated that in order to preserve the existing level of the Commonwealth's air defense, over 80 billion rubles would need to be spent just on buying weapons. After all, Russia does not have such money. Never mind Moldova and Azerbaijan. They are following Ukraine in raising the issue of abolishing the unified air defense system and privatizing the Army.

[Izgarshev] Some bad news has just come in from Belarus too—they have started talking about their own army and oath... Responsible leaders are completely unable to think straight.

[Demedyuk] I would sooner call them irresponsible...

[Izgarshev] Incidentally, while on the subject of Azerbaijan. You get glimpses of reports in the press to the effect that our officers and men and members of their families there have recently been living in conditions that cannot be described as anything other than martial law.

[Demedyuk] You could not have put it better. Various armed formations and small groups are attacking Air Defense subunits and units that are on alert duty in the remotest and most inaccessible areas of the Transcaucasus. Over 600 firearms have been seized from units and subunits. Cases of hostages being taken and threats of reprisal against members of servicemen's families have become more frequent. Many illegal acts are being carried out with the indirect participation of local officials.

An unprecedented incident has occurred in the republic of Nakhichevan, where a subunit of the Air Defense radar troops stationed in the mountains was captured.

[Izgarshev] In a word, the process of the disintegration of the air defense system is manifesting itself in different ways. Ranging from people being forced to take a new oath, to complete brigandage. What is the solution?

[Demedyuk] You cannot stop anarchy be means of anarchy. We need political decisions here. We are hoping for these, and that common sense will prevail. Otherwise things may reach a point whereby it will not only be Rust who will fly in.

Fleet Conflict Takes 'Menacing Dimensions'

PM1001163392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 5

[Report by Maksim Yusin: "Confrontation Between Russia and Ukraine Takes a Dangerous Turn"]

[Excerpts] The conflict between Russia and Ukraine over the Black Sea Fleet is taking on menacing dimensions. This is the conclusion reached by foreign observers analyzing the events of the last 24 hours. The fragile alliance between the two largest Slav republics is undergoing its most serious test since the creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States. [passage omitted]

In what direction will the confrontation between Kiev and Moscow develop? Observers are refraining from making forecasts at the moment. Today one thing is clear: The Black Sea Fleet does not intend to switch to Ukrainian jurisdiction. Fleet Commander Igor Kasatonov confirmed this Wednesday, 8 January, at a news conference, stating that he would not subordinate himself to Kravchuk.

It is not ruled out that the question of the Fleet's future will be up in the air for some time. Ukraine is not in a position to establish control over it. Russia cannot withdraw the Fleet from Sevastopol in a matter of weeks. Neither is there much chance of a compromise being found at the negotiating table. Kravchuk confirmed the immutability of the Ukrainian approach 8 January: The yellow and blue flag should be raised above all the ships of the Black Sea squadron. For his part, Yeltsin understands that Russia's prestige is at stake and he cannot yield another inch.

The path hinted at by Anatoliy Sobchak is becoming increasingly realistic: The problem of Sevastopol and the Fleet should be resolved together with the Crimean problem. A demonstration held 8 January by many thousands of the peninsula's inhabitants protesting Kravchuk's policy reminded us that the question of the Crimea's status has not been definitively resolved and could cause serious problems for Kiev.

Presumably, having exhausted other arguments, Russia will present Ukraine, which is being intractable, with the territorial claims which so frightened Kravchuk four months ago. This turn of events, which risks detonating the ethnic peace in Ukraine and ruining relations between the two states for years to come, cannot unfortunately be ruled out at the present time.

Commanders Remark on Ukraine, Oath Issue

PM1201152692 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Jan 92 p 2

[Report by Colonel V. Kaushanskiy and Colonel A. Polyakov: "Commanders Come Out Against Taking the Ukrainian Oath"]

[Text] As already reported, a conference was held in Kiev 9 January, with the participation of the Ukrainian President L. Kravchuk, Prime Minister V. Fokin, republic Defense Minister Colonel General K. Morozov, and leadership personnel of the Armed Forces stationed in Ukraine.

As expected, attention was focused on problems relating to getting the grouping of forces to take the military oath, and also the present and future of the Ukrainian armed forces. The Ukrainian leadership's position on these questions is well known, and is incorporated in a whole package of legislative acts which are still being worked on to this day and will come under discussion at Supreme Soviet sittings in the near future. The conference participants had an opportunity to study the Law on Social and Legal Protection of Servicemen and the draft Law on Pension Provision for Servicemen, which had just been published in the press.

As of 1 January, according to Prime Minister V. Fokin's statement, the armed forces in the Ukraine are financed by the republic; a defense department has been set up at the Cabinet of Ministers, and at the Ministry of Economics operational groups to support the troops' normal activity have been set up. But the unresolved problems are still outstripping the laws that have been adopted or are in preparation thus far, the generals and officers said in their speeches.

How can housing be provided for nearly 100,000 officers' and warrant officers' families, and what is to be done about military schools, of which there are more than 30 in the Ukraine, at which officers are trained for the army of the entire Commonwealth? What will happen, for instance, to the 323 graduates of the Kamenets-Podolskiy Engineering School—this question was asked by the chief of that school—since places cannot be found for all of them in the Ukraine? And what about the students on subsequent courses, whose fate is even more uncertain? Questions, questions... And these questions arise, in the view of many speakers, because of what they see as the unexpected haste with which the Ukraine is creating its own armed forces.

A military man begins with the oath. That is axiomatic. But the subject of getting people to take the oath prompted many questions from the officers and differing views among the speakers. Colonel V. Martirosyan, for instance, proposed that everyone should immediately take the oath to the Ukraine. Well, everyone has his own principles. Although a military man, and especially an officer, should only have one approach to the oath: The oath is a solemn vow, and until you are released from it, you must be true to it.

The commanders of the three military districts and the Black Sea Fleet firmly stated that they are unwilling to take the oath from officers, warrant officers, and conscripted soldiers and seamen, who have already taken an oath, and that it is inappropriate to take this step hastily. Colonel General V. Chechevatov, commander of the Kiev Military District, stressed that oath-taking should be preceded by talks at intergovernmental level and the drawing up of documents on the whole field of military development in the Commonwealth. It is precisely because there is no complete package of such documents that these questions arise among the military men.

Problems relating to the oath were posed particularly keenly by representatives of the Commonwealth's strategic forces. The year 1994 marks the end of their presence on Ukrainian territory. What then? Nobody knows. Yet it is being proposed that they too take the oath today. Major General of Aviation M. Bashkirov, commander of an aviation combined unit, said that he has more nuclear "buttons" than all the presidents put together. Therefore we must not be hurried or pushed into ill-considered moves. He personally has no wish to choose between his daily bread and his conscience as an officer. His opinion is this: People in the combined unit should not take the oath until the status of the strategic forces has been clearly formulated, with unified control and centralized use of these forces.

The fate of the Black Sea Fleet remains a hot issue. Its commander, Admiral I. Kasatonov, expressed concern, from the conference platform, over Ukraine's claims to the entire fleet. That could lead to the destruction of sacred traditions created over centuries and the breaking of the bonds of naval fraternity, and will create a real threat of the breakup of ships' crews. According to existing rules, for instance, no submarine will put to sea if even a single person is missing from the crew. Possible refusals by conscripted seamen to take the oath could render whole warships unfit for duty.

While laying claim to the Black Sea Fleet, Ukraine thinks that after the removal of tactical nuclear weapons from its bases by mid-1992 it will cease to be part of the strategic forces. Forgetting, for some reason, that the fleet's forces cover the entire south flank of the Commonwealth, while the fleet itself is based on the territory of five sovereign republics.

It should be observed that the commanders' firm position at the conference was not easy for them. Even here, in the Supreme Soviet building where the meeting was held, there were cries of "Down with Chechevatov!" and "Shame on you!" Admittedly, the shouts were not loud, but apparently some people lack restraint. And it is increasingly difficult for the staffs and military councils of districts, formations, and combined units to maintain their own restraint. Officers and generals, harassed by contradictory instructions and directives, are devoting less and less attention to their duties, and their relations with those who have received posts at the Ukrainian Defense Ministry or are preparing to take up such posts are strained. But the most worrying thing is that this lack of understanding could permeate to a higher level too.

Ukrainian President L. Kravchuk, speaking at the conference, sought with his habitual diplomacy to smooth over many of the tricky points and called on people to take the oath but to put no pressure on those who do not want to do so. L. Kravchuk observed that creating a unified army on the territory of 11 republics is an unrealistic task, and moreover the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] is not a state structure, and there is no precedent in history of autonomous states having a unified army. At the same time he gave assurances that the Ukrainian and Russian languages will have equal rights in the army, as will the servicemen themselves.

While the conference was going on, hundreds of officers gathered in front of the Supreme Soviet building to protest against the hasty taking of the oath. They wanted answers to numerous questions. Who will release them from the oath they took earlier? What is the mechanism for transfers to and from other regions of the former Union? Where is the guarantee that the Ukraine will not start forming purely national armed forces tomorrow? Why is the oath-taking process proceeding ahead of the drafting and approval of the documents governing it?

After the conference Ukrainian Defense Minister Col. Gen. K. Morozov met with officers in one of the rooms at the Officers' Institute and answered questions that concerned them. However, it cannot be ruled out that further questions will arise in the course of service and the creation of the armed forces of the independent states. Unfortunately, we have already seen that Ukraine's relations with Russia, which only yesterday were cloudless, first fell under a cloud because of the sudden start of price liberalization in Moscow and are now lost in a fog because of the position over the Black Sea Fleet. Is this not the sign for a calm, considered approach first and foremost on military issues?

'Unclear Situation' Disturbing to Servicemen

Concerns Published

PM1301102192 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 11 Jan 92 p 1

[Reader's letter from Colonel V. Sapsay, chairman of an officers' assembly, under the general heading "Officers Call For Clear and Balanced Decisions From Politicians": "Do Not Force Us To Violate Our Consciences"]

[Text] I have just returned from a session of the Officers' Assembly Council. Before choosing a representative from the Army directorate collective for the Moscow forum, we discussed the questions to be raised there.

First, there has long been a need to ask our political leaders: How long will the Army remain in a vague and unclear situation?

Second, what kind of Armed Forces should we be serving in and whose should they be? To whom should we swear an oath of allegiance in order to be sure that we are not suddenly accused of treachery? Finally, what lies in store for us all after our discharge to the reserve? Who will pay our pensions, allocate housing for us, and so forth? In short, there are lots of questions.

Many of my service comrades advocate the speediest creation of joint Armed Forces. We are not opposed to armies in the republics. But they should be created from scratch, on a voluntary basis, rather than from units and subunits of the former Union Army. We should not force people to hastily swear oaths to either one leader or another. That is degrading.

What is currently being done in Ukraine is disturbing our officers—many of them have sons serving there. Naturally, they are telephoning to ask their dad which oath they should take. Are we really going to be serving in different armies now?

Take my case. My father and mother are Ukrainian. I was born in Russia and have spent my whole life there. My native language is Russian, although I also know Ukrainian to a certain extent. I have served in Kazakhstan for 14 years. I got my first apartment here, and I can in no way say that Kazakhstan is a foreign land to me. I brought my family here. Most officers are in a similar position.

Suddenly we are being ordered to take the Russian version of the oath. Suppose the Ukraine, Russia, and Kazakhstan are equally dear to me? Am I to swear three oaths? Or to whom should I refuse my loyalty? But why should I do this if such a step would go against my will and conscience?

Things are no easier for soldiers and NCOs. Ultimatums have already been issued by representatives of various republics. And these have been of a collective nature—if the men do not transfer to serving in their native republics, then they should leave their subunits.

In which army would I like to serve in the future? I would not want to serve in a purely republican army. I can see no future for such an army. I very much fear that such an army could be a source of interethnic strife. I think that today a Commonwealth of Independent States Army could be a reliable defense structure. Needless to say, it should have its own oath too. I see nothing wrong in using the text of the former oath as a basis. After all, it states everything clearly and plainly.

[Signed] Colonel V. Sapsay, chairman of the officers' assembly

Troops Speak Out

PM1001144792 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Jan 92 p 1

[Report by correspondent Arkadiy Semenyaka: "'We Were Deceived in the Ukraine,' Said Internal Services Servicemen Who Served on the Territory of That Sovereign State"]

[Text] Yesterday PRAVDA reported an incident involving internal troops servicemen who refused to swear an oath of loyalty to Ukraine 5 January this year. Kazakhstan President N. Nazarbayev and Uzbekistan President I. Karimov already know of the incident.

Today we allow the servicemen themselves to speak as they wait for their fate to be decided.

Senior Sergeant Nurlan Aytkaliyev:

I am a Kazakh. I was drafted from Uralsk Oblast. I served 18 months. Before administering the oath 5 January it was announced that I would be sent to serve in Kazakhstan. But we were sent to the Moscow region. We were deceived.

Sergeant Alim Mirzoyev:

I am an Uzbek. I have also served 18 months. I was awarded the "for excellent service" badge second class and I have other awards. And on 6 January the unit commander, A. Voronov, before the assembled troops told us, 77 servicemen drafted from Termez Oblast, that we were going home to serve. We were put into an aircraft. What happened next, you know. Our hunger strike was an enforced step. We wanted by this means to attract attention to ourselves. After yesterday's meeting with representatives of our state's permanent mission we repealed our decision and we have started to take food.

Private Yuriy Karasev:

I have served a year, I am a Russian by nationality. I was drafted from the city of Uglich, Yaroslavl Oblast. I served in Nikolayev. On 5 January I refused to take the oath for the sole reason that it overlooks the Russian people. I was sent from the unit without being issued with food or clothing.

Private Sergey Muzychenko:

I served six months in Zaporozhye. By nationality I am a Belarussian. I was drafted from Gomel. Here is how I found myself in the Moscow region: I was returning from duty and the company first sergeant said to me: Take your things, you are going home. In my ordinary clothes, in my greatcoat, without food, I left "for home." [Muzychenko ends]

...Hearing the servicemen's stories yesterday I thought: The commander in Donetsk, the deputy commander for personnel in Simferopol, the first sergeant in Zaporozhye, and someone else in Nikolayev deceived the soldiers. They were not provided with food or clothing. Did so-called officials do this deliberately or did a senior leader put them in this position? But I think that it is an officer's official duty and a matter of honor not to waive his principles in any situation and to tell people the truth. Especially as all 320 servicemen representing 16 nationalities and drafted from various corners of the former Union want to continue serving..

In the Ukraine today separatist trends are strengthening. But it should be recalled that the Commonwealth of Independent States obliges people to display a respectful attitude toward all representatives of the formation, especially internal troops servicemen called on to defend society's interests.

Hunger Strike Declared

PM1301093392 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1800 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Report by V. Martynov and V. Derevyakin; from the "Vesti" newscast

[Text] [Announcer] Yesterday we reported that 300 servicemen of 15 nationalities were transferred from the Ukraine to Sofrino near Moscow on Christmas night. They are in a desperate mood. A number of them have declared a protest hunger strike.

[Martynov] Unexpected reinforcements—over 300 men—have arrived at the spetsnaz [special forces] internal troops brigade in Sofrino near Moscow. Most of them come from the Donetsk operational regiment, and all of them from the Ukraine. Some of them were drafted in Central Asia. Since they have taken one oath, they refused to take another, which is why they have been expelled to continue their service elsewhere. You can understand the Ukrainian authorities. What government of an independent country would like to have on its territory an armed detachment which has not sworn allegiance? Unfortunately, some deception was involved. Judging by the servicemen's statements, when dispatching them their commanders told them that they would be continuing their service at home, but then they sent them to Moscow, and, what is more, without the prescribed material provisions.

The servicemen declared a hunger strike. Only after a meeting with a representative from Uzbekistan's mission in Moscow was the hunger strike been called off. Colonel Vasilyev, commander of the spetsnaz brigade, has guaranteed that "there will be no excesses." However, the situation urgently demands a solution, and the problem is clearly not confined to this group. Incidentally, the expelled servicemen include 20 servicemen from Kazakhstan, who also demand to be sent home.

'Civilized Solutions' Promised

PM1001155992 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1800 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Report by A. Goncharov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] [Goncharov] Ukraine regards the Black Sea Fleet as its own.

Fleet Commander Admiral Kasatonov ruled out the fleet's subordination to the Ukrainian command at his news conference in Sevastopol today.

Officers of Raukhovskiy Garrison in the Odessa Military District have come out in favor of retaining unified Armed Forces within the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States. They take the view that servicemen's status can be changed only by resolution of the heads of state of the Commonwealth and by order of the commander in chief.

No matter how important considerations of the sovereign states' prestige may be, hasty decisions, as a rule, merely create new problems and exacerbate old ones. This is an issue which affects thousands of people. For them it is not merely a matter of either taking or rejecting a new oath. They may have to rebuild their lives.

Delegations from Ukraine and Russia and representatives of the Army will try tomorrow to find a way out of the prevailing situation. On the eve of the meeting, the sides have promised that they will seek civilized solutions to all the questions.

Civil Disobedience Threatened

PM1001161792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Report by Viktor Litovkin: "Sevastopol Does Not Want To Swear the Oath to the Blue and Yellow Flag"]

[Text] Sevastopol—Outwardly everything is normal in Sevastopol. Blue and white naval flags are flying above the ships in the roadstead where they are moored, and there are small waiting lines for food products in the city. But everyone is still worried by the future of the Black Sea Fleet.

A Fleet officers' assembly was held yesterday. It adopted an appeal to the heads of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] which says that the seamen do not want to be pawns in political games, and that while they respect Ukraine's state sovereignty and its right to have its own armed forces, they are resolutely in favor of these questions being resolved in a civilized way, in stages, with the adoption of basic laws concerning servicemen which do not undermine the foundations of naval service or the people's moral fiber, or wreck their future. They advocated the idea that a unified fleet be kept in the Black Sea to perform military tasks in the interests of Ukraine, Russia, and other Commonwealth states. The officers' assembly stated that the opinion of the people who directly perform the military tasks should be ascertained before decisions are adopted in offices and parliaments. "We do not want to be in a situation whereby today we repeat our oath to one people, and tomorrow we confront another people with weapons in hand."

On the same day, 8 January, a 15,000-strong rally was held in Sevastopol by representatives of the city's workers and military collectives. They sent a letter to the Russian president demanding that the Red Banner Black Sea Fleet be retained as the CIS strategic fleet. And that the hero city of Sevastopol remain the Fleet's main base. They stated that in the event of Ukraine's refusal to recognize the Black Sea Fleet as a strategic fleet and Sevastopol as its main base, they have asked B. Yeltsin to take the Black Sea Fleet under the jurisdiction of Russia as the successor to the Union. Otherwise they will call on the inhabitants of Sevastopol to mount a campaign of civil disobedience.

Council Outlines Position

LD1001155492 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1200 GMT 10 Jan 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] A session of the Coordinating Council of Servicemen in the Baltic region has been held in Riga. Those assembled discussed the crisis situation in the Army and condemned attempts by Ukraine to nationalize the Armed Forces on its territory. Since, to date, no one has responded to numerous proposals from officers' forums regarding the withdrawal of troops from Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia and the social protection of servicemen, the coordinating council has unanimously adopted an ultimatum to the Commonwealth heads of government and the leadership of the Armed Forces. It says that if the Coordinating Council of Troop Unit Commanders in the Baltic does not gain the right of ownership over all moveable and immoveable property of the region's

Armed Forces by 30 January this year, the Coordinating Council retains the right to act at its own discretion.

'Arbitrary Actions' Decried

OW1001182392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1743 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The officers of the 40th Army deployed in Kazakhstan have demanded that the Presidents of the Commonwealth of Independent States should stop their "arbitrary actions against the Army and the Navy." Their statement delivered to President Nursultan Nazarbayev, of Kazakhstan, says that "before reforms can be launched they have to be supported by appropriate legal documents; besides, there should be consultations with those who defend the interests of the state and who have weapons in their hands."

The officers of the 40th Army believe that the oath all USSR servicemen took before does not run counter to the principles and aims facing the Armed Forces today or the interests of each individual member-state of the Commonwealth. A new version of the oath shall be authorized only after it has been approved legally for the Armed Forces of the CIS.

The officers' conference supported the proposals of the commander-in-chief of the CIS Armed Forces and the leaders of states who want to preserve one command of the Armed Forces. "We believe that preserving the Armed Forces united will guarantee the stability of reforms in the CIS and the security of each individual state and CIS as a whole."

Earlier the commander of the 40th Army Lieutenant-General Anatoliy Ryabtsev said that troops under his command would be loyal to the President of Kazakhstan.

Economic & Social

Report Notes Growth in Money Supply

LD1001142692 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2105 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Moscow, 9 January (BIZNES-TASS)— The growth in the money supply which is not provided for by goods and services is being continued in the former USSR. The amount of ready cash is growing because of an increase in wages and compensation which have not been provided for by a growth in labor productivity; in the non-ready cash sphere the uncontrolled payment of credits is continuing.

According to data of the "Tasta" information and analysis service, despite an increase in interest rates, over 10 months credit investments nearly doubled and amounted at 1 November last year to 724,200 million rubles (R) by means of an increase in the prices for raw materials, materiel, investment commodities and ready-made products.

The most substantial increase in credit investments was observed in Turkmenistan (2.8 times), in Kazakhstan (2.6 times) and Estonia (2.2 times). Their growth was considerably less in Latvia (27 percent) and Azerbaijan (32 percent).

Without a coordinated credit policy, the authors of the report conclude, the states of the Commonwealth will find it difficult to extricate themselves from the crisis and to fight inflation.

In the January-November period the amount of ready cash put into circulation in the country amounted to R102,500 million and increased by 4.4 times compared with the corresponding period last year.

While in 11 months last year Ukraine removed from circulation R1,400,000,000, and Belarus R0.2 billion, in the January-November period this year the Ukraine put into circulation R10 billion, and Belarus R1.7 billion. In Tajikistan the amount of money put into circulation increased from R25 million for the first 11 months last year to R0.5 billion for the January-November period in the current year (20 times). In the same period in Kyrgyzstan it increased from R88 million to R0.8 billion (9.3 times). In Turkmenistan emission increased 5.1 times; in Kazakhstan 4.4 times; in Russia 3.9 times.

Russia accounts for most of the money put into circulation in the country as a whole. Its proportion is 64 percent, the proportion of Ukraine is 10 percent, Kazakhstan accounts for seven percent, and Uzbekistan's proportion is five percent. This eruption of surplus cash eats into the residue of remaining goods and undermines the already weak production incentives.

The supermonopolism of the economy is manifested in the sphere of money circulation: The monopolist can easily dictate requirements for the increase in wages and therefore the supply of new money. If these requirements are not fufilled, the economy may be expected to collapse, and the new states may face a social explosion on an unpredictable scale, warn the authors of the report. In full the report, entitled "The Financial Situation of the Soviet Union, the Results of the Last Year," which was prepared on the basis of official figures, can be obtained at the "Tasta" joint-stock company in Moscow. It can be contacted at telephone number (095) 290-44-68; Fax (095)203-30-49; Telex 411186.

Media

TASS Carries Moscow Press Review

LD1101074992 Moscow TASS in English 0704 GMT 11 Jan 92

["Review of Moscow Newspapers"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow January 11 TASS—The key topic of Saturday's [11 January] Moscow newspapers is the division of the Armed Forces of the former Soviet Union among the Commonwealth states.

"Evidently, more efforts will be taken to achieve some agreement, but if talks prove to be unsuccessful, there are all grounds to believe that the Russian leadership is prepared to announce itself a full successor to the USSR also in military matters," the independent NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA paper reports.

It has been learnt from trustworthy sources in the Russian leadership that the text of the presidential decree "On the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation and the Collective Security of the Commonwealth of Independent States Members" is now being examined.

"Disagreements in building the Commonwealth emerge as soon as its participants depart from safe topics of discussions such as the problems of the Aral Sea and Chernobyl, because they do not bind anybody by anything," NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA points out.

Under the general headline "Officers Demand Clear and Well- Considered Decisions from Politicians" the Army newspaper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA frontpages a selection of materials about the military men's concern over the division of the Armed Forces of the ex-Soviet Union.

"I think things will sort themselves out soon. The situation in the Black Sea Fleet and around it is being normalised," Admiral I. Kapitanets, first deputy commander-in-chief of the Navy, writes in an article published in the newspaper SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA.

"We, Navy men, are the first to vote for our politicians to display state wisdom, to prevent disputes about the Fleet to be brought to confrontation—Russians and Ukrainians have nothing to divide. I tend to describe what is happening today as the costs of the first steps by statehood, a kind of the children's disease of sovereignty and independence of new states," Kapitanets writes.

The newspaper RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA features a report about the completion of the important stage in the investigation into the August putsch case. The materials of the case filled one hundred volumes.

Among the main results of the investigation is the conclusion about Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's non-complicity in the conspiracy and also the discovery of the materials pointing to the facts of shadowing, with Gorbachev's knowledge, people's deputies and Russian Federation leaders.

Investigation chiefs want to begin a trial of the defendants before mid summer 1992. The Russian public prosecutor's office does not doubt the need to punish the organisers of the putsch although the USSR no longer exists.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA publishes a dispatch from Kabul devoted to the imaginary Soviet prisoner of war, who was handed over to the Russian delegation led by Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy in Islamabad. The returned appeared to be a Turkmenian of the Afghan descent who never served in the Soviet Army.

Following the investigation of this incident, the newspaper's correspondents contend that at point is a "deliberate provocation" rather than a mistake, which aims to "create a problem of mistrust beween Mujahadeens and the Russian Foreign Ministry and complicate the issues of the return of our prisoners of war, which are hard to resolve."

They quote same leaders of the Mujahedeens as alleging that the liberated "Soviet soldier" was taken prisoner already after the official withdrawal of the Soviet Army from Afghanistan and, consequently, secretly fought on the side of the Najibollah government.

All newspapers feature reports about the hardships generated by the price hike in Russia.

PRAVDA Review Carried

LD1301070192 Moscow TASS in English
0649 GMT 13 Jan 92

["PRAVDA Review"—TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow January 13 TASS—Today's issue of PRAVDA devotes its front page to illustrated reports about mass rallies held in Manezh Square the day before to demand that the Russian Government take resolute measures to protect the bulk of the population.

Retired Major-General Algimantas Naudziunas writes about Lithuania's future and the fate of the Armed Forces of the former Soviet Union that are still deployed in that Republic. He stresses in an article entitled "Lithuania is my Motherland" that the Armed Forces issue must be settled at the negotiating table.

The situation in Kuzbas, the country's main coal supplier, and personal relations between President Boris Yeltsin and another candidate for the post, Amangeldy Tuleyev who is now heading the Kuzbas administration, are in the focus of PRAVDA's item headlined "Power-Struggle in Kuzbas".

PRAVDA reports from Yerevan that Zviad Gamsakhurdia has not been granted asylum in Armenia, as its government has only provided temporary shelter to Gamsakhurdia and followers. The newspaper says nothing about further decisions of Armenian authorities.

Writer Eduard Limonov in his article "Serbian Experience" analyses the present situation in the Balkans as it reflects on the situation on the territory of the former USSR. Limonov points out that the Russian leadership is now committing errors similar to those made by the West at the outset of the Balkan crisis, when it was necessary to concentrate on the possible consequences of the conflict inside Yugoslavia.

International Affairs

Yeltsin, Major Discuss Recognition, IMF, UN

LD1001195192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1815 GMT 10 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Voronkov]

[Text] London, 10 Jan (TASS)—The economic situation in Russia, its joining the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, the forthcoming sitting of the UN Security Council, and the situation concerning the Black Sea Fleet—these topical issues were discussed today by Russian President Boris Yeltsin and U.K. Prime Minister John Major. The 15-minute telephone conversation between the two leaders was held in a friendly manner, a TASS correspondent was informed by a spokesman from Downing Street.

B. Yeltsin thanked the head of the British Government for the official recognition of Russia by the U.K., and for his message, which said that Great Britain regards Russia as a legal successor to the Soviet Union. The two leaders discussed the agenda of the forthcoming special sitting of the UN Security Council, which is to be convened in New York at J. Major's suggestion to discuss the situation following the disintegration of the Soviet Union. The Russian president confirmed that he would participate in the session.

Kozyrev on Ties With Ukraine, Kiev Talks

LD1301102992 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0950 GMT 13 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Jan (TASS)—"Moods of panic and whipping up nervousness around Russian relations with Ukraine are inappropriate," Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev stated today to a TASS correspondent. He participated in the meeting of experts of the two states held in Kiev at the end of last week. According to the minister, it is possible to take one more step at the negotiations on the road to overcoming their "imperial totalitarian" legacy and forming goodneighborly relations between the two states and peoples.

The important thing is that reasonable attitudes emerged in Kiev toward the division of responsibility for the Black Sea Fleet and the ground force grouping of armed forces in Ukraine, he noted. These attitudes are based on the recognition of the indivisibility of their basic component, which has strategic significance for the Commonwealth of Independent States. General purpose forces will be transferred gradually to sovereign Ukraine, the minister stressed.

Andrey Kozyrev disclosed that a moratorium is being introduced on unilateral actions for the transitional period, while the social problems of servicemen will be resolved jointly.

According to the Russian minister, it is an important fact that both sides at the Kiev meeting confirmed their aspiration to reduce, rather than to build up, military arsenals in strict conformity with international agreements.

To Visit Kaliningrad, Estonia, Germany

LD1301134492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1141 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Report by TASS diplomatic correspondent Sergey Ryabikin]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Jan (TASS)—Andrey Kozyrev, minister of foreign affairs of Russia, will go on a trip from 14-16 January, during the course of which he will visit Kaliningrad, Estonia, and Germany. A representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia told a TASS correspondent this today.

Andrey Kozyrev will visit Kaliningrad within the framework of the trips which representatives of the Russian leadership are making, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported.

An exchange of ratified credentials will take place between Russia and Estonia in Estonia. This bilateral treaty was ratified a while ago. Questions of bilateral relations will be discussed also, in particular, the withdrawal of the armed forces of the former USSR, which are deployed on the territory of this country.

Andrey Kozyrev will visit Bonn at the invitation of Hans-Dietrich Genscher, minister of foreign affairs of the FRG. It is planned that the ministers will discuss questions of the preparations for the session of the council of ministers of foreign affairs of the CSCE, which will take place in Prague 30-31 January, and also bilateral problems.

Meets Swedish Official

LD1301104992 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1000 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] A meeting between Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Margaret af Ugglas, head of the Swedish foreign policy establishment, who arrived yesterday, has begun at the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Kolokolov told TASS that in the relations between the two states, particular importance is attached to ways of finding new formats for cooperation, in particular in economic matters. We have to move on to specific and new forms of cooperation, remove adverse vestiges of the past, he said, and continued—one such issue is virtually closed, that of the aircraft shot down in 1952. Serious progress has been made in the Raoul Wallenberg case. Regarding the problem of submarines, Boris Kolokolov noted: We hope to proceed to meetings of experts. Regarding the final question, that of Swedish vessels that disappeared during WWII, evidence has been uncovered showing that one ship was indeed sunk, in 1942. All members of the crew were picked up and taken to Leningrad. A search for traces of these people is currently in progress.

Shakray Assesses Russian-Ukrainian Talks

LD1201183692 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1715 GMT 12 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow, 12 Jan (TASS)—The results of the talks between the Russian and Ukrainian state delegations on military-political issues completed in Kiev on 11 January prove that the search for a compromise dictated by common sense has begun. "Our first meeting confirms how important it is to seek a path to agreement now and not to act unilaterally," Sergey Shakhray, state counsellor for legal policy, deputy chairman of the government of the Russian Federation, and head of the Russian delegation, has told TASS.

Having positively assessed the talks' results, he noted that all military-political matters would be examined in the future within the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States and proceeding first and foremost from the spirit and letter of the agreements on strategic forces, armed forces, and border troops. It is very important, Sergey Shakhray said, that we manage to reach a formula within the framework of which matters of a military-political nature can in the future be settled in a civilized manner and in the interests of the Commonwealth as a whole.

Explaining this formula, the head of the Russian delegation noted: "The sides agreed that all the armed forces presently stationed in Ukraine fall into two categories, including the Commonwealth strategic forces category. The Black Sea Fleet is part of these forces. Only part of it will be transferred to the Ukrainian Armed Forces. Consequently, we are talking solely about the tasks involved in protecting Ukrainian coastline."

Another part of the armed forces stationed in Ukraine actually comprises the armed forces of this state and those which are subject to reduction under the Vienna and Paris accords. In our communique, Sergey Shakhray noted, "we confirmed that the section of the armed forces subject to reduction will be determined by agreement between the sides, within the framework of the quotas envisaged by the agreements."

The sides affirmed their readiness to take specific measures soon on ratifying the START treaty between the USSR and the United States and the CFE treaty. The head of Russia's delegation remarked that "it is important to underline that an obligation was registered in Kiev not to undertake any unilateral actions and to resolve contentious issues through negotiations." The head of Russia's delegation described as an "undoubted success" of the Kiev talks the fact "that an understanding was reached to resolve issues concerning the social protection of servicemen and their civil and political status in a concerted way." He announced that the work begun in Kiev will continue in Moscow on 13 January at the level of experts. "Our delegation, the composition of which was determined by Russia's president and the head of its parliament, is empowered," Sergey Shakhray said, "to conduct talks with all states of the former Soviet Union—including the Baltic states—and it is invested with all necessary powers for that."

Government To Prepare Draft on Armed Forces

LD1101033192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0143 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Moscow, 11 Jan (TASS)—If talks on the division of the former USSR's Armed Forces are unsuccessful, "then there are grounds to think that the Russian leadership is ready to announce itself as the USSR's legal successor also in military issues," NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA says on Saturday [11 January]. It has become known from reliable sources, the newspaper reports, that the text of the presidential decree "On the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation and on the Collective Security of the Member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS]" is being prepared.

The draft says, in particular, that "the Russian Federation is assuming the rights and duties of the former USSR as regards its Armed Forces, including those deployed beyond the territory of the Russian Federation, in accordance with the agreements between the member states of the CIS, until a joint command of the strategic forces is established, joint Armed Forces are created, and issues regarding the right of the former Union republics to create their own Armed Forces have been resolved." According to the newspaper, common sense as well as public safety demand that the former USSR's Armed Forces retain the unified structure of management, supply, and command during the transitional period.

"If servicemen who have taken different oaths, serve in one and the same unit, then this unit, one might well assume, will not be able to function," NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA notes. Of course, if this kind of decree is signed, this will bring the leaders of many independent states into a state of great anger. Yet this may become the last chance for the political leadership of Russia and of other "Commonwealth member states" to resolve the problem of the former USSR's Armed Forces independently and by purely political methods.

Base To Sell 'Defunct' Ships, Submarines

OW1001181192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1743 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The commander of the St. Petersburg naval base, Vice Admiral Valentin Selivanov, has announced the intention to conclude contracts with a number of foreign firms for selling defunct submarines and surface vessels, as well as their ammunition. Vice Admiral Selivanov says the naval base will have to take the measure due to its disastrous financial position. Interviewed by the newspaper 'SANKT-PETERBURGSKIYE VIEDOMOSTI' (ST. PETERSBURG NEWS) Admiral Selivanov said that the buyers would have to provide guarantees that the submarines and surface ships would be used as scrap metal.

About reforms in the Baltic Fleet following the loss of the bases in the Baltic states, Admiral Selivanov said that the best option would be to open strategic bases in the South, for instance, Kaliningrad, and in the North—Kronstadt and St. Petersburg.

Bombers Redeployed From Germany to Stavropol

LD1301104692 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0400 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Soviet Air Force bombers are ending their stay in Germany and will now be deployed in Stavropol, reports our correspondent Valeriy Kuts.

[Kuts] Colonel-General Fyodor Burlakov, commander of the Western Group of Forces [name and title as heard], recently visited Stavropol, where he carried out intensive duty tours and conferences with the leadership of the new administration. Although the purpose of the visit was reported by official sources, it was stated in such a vague manner that after the colonel-general left, gossip and speculation about the purposes of the visit still continue. The main fears can be summed up like this: The military units being redeployed will occupy existing facilities and apartments allocated to citizens on waiting lists. These rumors have now been dispelled. It has become known from well-informed sources that the military units being withdrawn from Germany to be deployed in Stavropol will give the kray 5 million deutschemarks to buy two modern brick-building factories. For each apartment that has been made available, the army will pay 6,000 deutschemarks. Servicemen will also build a house-building combine.

Turkmenia, Russia Discuss Natural Gas Prices

LD1001211292 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1744 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Price of Turkmen natural gas will depend on results of talks between representatives of Russian and Turkmen Governments Nazar Toliev, vice premier of Turkmenia, and Khalmamed Orazmamedov, head of the Turkmengazprom Corporation, flew to Moscow on January 9 to hold talks with representatives of the Russian Government and senior executives from the former all-Union concern Gazprom, which has been succeeded by a similar Russian institution. They plan to discuss the price and volume of reciprocal gas deliveries by Turkmenia and the delivery by Russia of pipes, machinery and other facilities needed for the production and transportation of gas. The sides will also discuss the form of account settling between the two states. Proceeding from the results of the talks, Turkmengazprom which has a monopoly on gas production in Turkmenia, will fix the price of gas exported to other republics of the former USSR.

Previously talks on gas deliveries, held with interruptions between the management of Turkmengazprom, on the one hand, and representatives of Russia, Central Asian and Transcaucasian republics, on the other hand, before the end of December, 1991, were broken up because it did not seem possible to bring their stands closer together. Although Turkmenia signed an agreement on trade and economic cooperation, which envisages the sale of gas to those republics (with the exception of Georgia), contracts on its deliveries have not been concluded with any of those states.

Turkmengazprom control gas export only to members of the Commonwealth of Independent States. The export of gas to other countries in exchange for hard currency is within the competence of the Turkmen Presidential Council, because gas exports bring a major part of the republic's hard currency revenues. Contracts have already been signed for the delivery of gas to Turkey and Pakistan, which will begin after the completion of the construction of a gas pipeline. The gas importing countries agreed to finance the projects. According to some sources, the construction of the gas pipelines will be completed no sooner than in 1993. Agreement has been reached on the creation of Turkmen-Argentine and Turkmen-Italian joint enterprises in Turkmenia for the liquefaction of natural gas, so that it can be transported by railway, and for the production of chemicals.

Churkin Confirms Arms Trade With Iran

PM1301135192 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 4

[Report by Gennadiy Charodeyev: "Some 116 Countries Have Now Recognized Russia"]

[Excerpts] At the Russian Foreign Ministry press center on Zubovskaya Street there was a routine briefing, chaired by Vitaliy Churkin. He announced that the Russian Federation has now been recognized by 116 countries as an independent state. [passage omitted]

Your IZVESTIYA correspondent put a question: The other day the LOS ANGELES TIMES reported that in 1991 the Soviet Union supplied Iran with armaments worth $1 billion. This year these supplies will allegedly increase. What is the Russian Foreign Ministry's version of this?

V. Churkin was unable to cite specific figures or data, but he did say that our country, like the other members of the world community, has established military links. They include accords on arms supplies. Iran is one of the states with which the former Soviet Union had agreements on supplies of military equipment and armaments....

Foreign Ministry on Libyan Bids to Physicists

OW1301062192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1700 GMT 10 Jan 92

[From the weekly "Diplomatic Panorama" feature; transmitted via KYODO on 13 January]

[Text] The Russian Foreign Ministry has neither confirmed nor refuted reports about Libya's plans to offer a contract to a group of Russian nuclear physicists. The Foreign Ministry's corresponding department told DP [Diplomatic Panorama] that it had no information on the score [as received], although it "tried to keep an eye on such events if they do occur."

A high-ranking diplomat told DP that "in principle anything may happen, given the current situation." Whatever the case, such an agreement could not have been overlooked by the Russian Foreign Ministry, he said.

Kamchatka Fishermen Protest U.S. Agreement

LD1001192892 Moscow TASS in English 1905 GMT 10 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Vladimir Yegorov]

[Text] Moscow January 10 TASS—The Kamchatka (Russian Far East) fishermen have launched a protest campaign against the signing of a contract between the Russian Government and the American "Performance Contracting Group". In their appeal to American colleagues they suggest to boycott the agreement which will "bring more distress" to Russians. The appeal has been supported by the newly-established Russian Fishing Industry Trade Union.

According to the Kamchatka fishermen, the contract will give the Americans right to receive up to 330 thousand tons of fish annually. "We are not aware of the details of the contract, but some of the facts we do know are frightening", the appeal says. The contract stipulates that 34 out of 37 tons of shellfish caught near Kamchatka will be given to the American side.

The statement says the agreement will impose great losses on the Kamchatka fishermen and will leave a great number of them jobless. The new trade union is eager to inform Russian President Boris Yeltsin of the protest.

Sakhalin, ROK's Cheju Form 'Special' Ties

LD1201073792 Moscow TASS in English 0657 GMT 12 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Belovitskiy]

[Text] Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk January 12 TASS—Goodneighbourly relations will be established between the South Korean island of Cheju (where Presidents Mikhail Gorbachev and No Tae-U met last year) and the Soviet island of Sakhalin during a Sakhalin people's delegation to the Republic of Korea. The delegation left for Seoul by air today.

Russia's only island region must take a special place in bilateral relations between the two states, Sakhalin region Governor Valentin Fyodorov, who leads the delegation, told TASS.

In pre-war days and during the years of the Second World War, the Japanese forcibly deported thousands of Koreans from the land of the morning calm, as Korea is referred to, to southern Sakhalin.

After the August of 1945, the unwilling emigrants were unable to return home. Nowadays the Korean Diaspora on Sakhalin island numbers about 35,000, a large proportion of whom come from the south of the Korean peninsula, and their descendants.

The social activity of Sakhalin Koreans has been markedly influenced by the stormy political events in the former Soviet Union over the past three years.

Over the period, they have set up a Korean association, a society of divided families, and other public and cultural organisations. The "affinity factor" will add a special atmosphere to partnership relations between Sakhalin and Cheju.

Buryatia, Mongolia Reach 'Cultural Cooperation'

LD1301045992 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0907 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Summary] Ulaanbaatar, 12 Jan (TASS)—The trip by Vladimir Saganov, chairman of the Buryatia Council of Ministers, to Mongolia on the Mongolian prime minister's invitation resulted in relations between the two countries reaching interstate level. Mongolian Deputy Prime Minister Choyjilsurengiyn Purebdorj views the intergovenmental agreement on trade-economic, scientific-technical, and cultural cooperation as the beginning of a new stage between the two neighbors on principally new priorities. The two sides agreed to create a Mongol-Buryatian intergovernmental commission on cooperation—the first session of which is in March—to agree on questions of mutual deliveries and payments and to decide on opening a joint commercial bank in Ulaanbaatar. Also planned are a joint border-customs control point and the creation of a single free economic zone in this region attracting foreign investment. Regular flights between Ulaanbaatar and Ulan-Ude are planned. Issues involving the supply of electricity to Mongolia from Buryatia and close cooperation in the fuel and energy sphere were also discussed during the visit. The Mongolian deputy prime minister also said that he views the new stage of cooperation with Buryatia as opening broad prospects for establishing and developing relations with other regions in Russia.

Federation Affairs

Decree on Speeding Privatization Issued

PM1001154792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 10 Jan 92 First Edition p 1

[Decree of the Russian Federation President "On the Acceleration of the Privatization of State and Municipal Enterprises", dated Moscow, The Kremlin, 29 December 1991 and signed by RSFSR President B. Yeltsin]

[Text] Decree of the Russian Federation President on Accelerating the Privatization of State and Municipal Enterprises

To accelerate the privatization of state and municipal enterprises, I **resolve**:

1. To ratify the Basic Provisions of the Program for the Privatization of State and Municipal Enterprises in the Russian Federation in 1992 (appended), which have been elaborated on the basis of the draft 1992 State Privatization Program, and to begin their implementation on 1 January 1992.

2. Within one month of the publication of this Decree, state management and local administration organs shall elaborate local privatization programs in accordance with the Basic Provisions of the Program for the Privatization of State and Municipal Enterprises in the Russian Federation in 1992 and begin to implement them on the basis of the Russian Federation law on privatization.

3. In the period to 1 March and in the light of the experience of privatization in the first quarter of 1992, the Russian Federation Government shall do further work on the draft 1992 State Privatization Program for presentation to the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet.

4. The Russian Federation Ministry of the Press and Information, the All-Russian State Television and Radio Company, and the Russian Federation State Committee for the Management of State Property shall ensure the publication in the press of the Basic Provisions of the Program for the Privatization of State and Municipal Enterprises in the Russian Federation in 1992 and guarantee them broad coverage and discussion in the mass media.

[signed] B. Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation

The Moscow Kremlin, 29 December 1991.

Next 6-8 Months 'Hardest Period' of Transition

LD1301041692 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1509 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Interview with Russian President Boris Yeltsin by unidentified correspondent following the Christmas charity ball in the Kremlin Palace of Congresses in Moscow on 7 January; from the "Christmas Ball for Children" program—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] How did you celebrate Christmas when you were a child?

[Yeltsin] We went round the houses. I lived in a village. The snow was never heavy. The weather was mild, so the snowfall was light. I will never forget it. Our small house was thrown open. We had a small house, with a kitchen and other rooms. We would have 10 people there, all of them dancing and singing. It was a nice atmosphere. Everybody was in a good mood.

[Correspondent] Wasn't celebrating Christmas banned at that time?

[Yeltsin] There was a period when that evil evidently had not yet reached the countryside. Then, it really began to surface.

[Correspondent] Do you remember when you first tasted tangerines or oranges? How old were you then?

[Yeltsin] I think I was already over 30.

[Correspondent] Children these days only get to taste tangerines at birthdays or at charitable evenings like this one, perhaps. That is the only time they appear on our tables, because they are already becoming a bit difficult to buy. Won't many of our children have to wait until they are at least 30?

[Yeltsin] No, I believe in the people and in Russia despite everything. I believe that they will survive the hardest period, which will last 6-8 months. Generally speaking, this year will be the most difficult. The people will survive. We are not promising a bright future as far ahead as the next century. We are saying it will take a year, a year, a year, a year. We have now embarked on a completely new road. Everything depends on us alone. Therefore, we simply have no other choice. There is no other choice. The whole world believes that there is no other way out. All of our specialists believe there is no other way out. We must get across this barrier before us. There is not yet one country in the world which, in switching to the market, has been able to avoid this liberalization and rise in prices. This has not happened in a single country. Well, yes, there are such countries as Argentina and Brazil, which make four or six attempts and still do not make it. However, at the same time in Mexico, the first time, improvement already began within three months. Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia—within three months improvement began. Italy, Spain, Portugal—they all got through this in three or four months, the most difficult period, then a kind of horizontal period, and then prices begin to fall and life improves. I believe in this. I simply believe in our people; it is their gumption, their enterprise; we used to have this; we used to have traders, businessmen. Now they are called managers, but they are traders. Our people used to trade throughout the world. Russia used to sell food products, used to sell furs, whatever you want, used to sell grain. Now, we are buying it. We used to sell it, Russia. Russia can now feed itself well, and trade with other countries, and live in peace with other countries, and get on with all of the 130 nations and ethnic groups which live on Russian territory. How passions are raging, how much blood is being shed around Russia, but inside Russia there has been no bloodshed yet, touch wood.

[Correspondent] Our children should believe not only in fairy tales, but also in the future of their country?

[Yeltsin] Yes, they say that there are no miracles, that miracles have ended for Christmas, but I think that this will be another of our Russian miracles. As we won in the war, so now we will be victorious. I believe this, I am convinced of this, otherwise I would not have taken it on.

Yeltsin Addresses 7 Jan Christmas Charity Ball

LD1301031892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0720 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Speech by Russian President Boris Yeltsin at the Christmas charity ball in the Kremlin Palace of Congresses in Moscow on 7 January—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted: announcer introduction]

[Yeltsin] Dear children, esteemed citizens of Russia, ladies, and gentlemen. Today is truly the first time since 1917 that we are having such a festival. It is not just the festival of Christ's birth, but also a children's Christmas ball, a party for children—all children, including Afghan war orphans, boarding school children, and children from orphanages and schools for orphans. Overall, the people we see gathered here today are the most courageous of people.

Russia is embarking on a difficult and arduous road. I have to say that we are optimistic. Someone has always been spoiling things for us in Russia. Russia had no statehood. Russia had nothing. Russia was merely exploited. Russia has now cleared the minefield that was in front of it. It has now been cleared, and we can now build our lives as Russians want. And Russians, of course, want to live well. Yes, the early stage will be hard.

I am not speaking about some kind of radiant future for which they spent all the last 74 years appealing. I am not saying that it will come within a decade. I am saying that we need to be patient for six or eight months. I am convinced that by the end of the year there will already be stabilization, and people's lives will begin to improve. I am convinced. Today, this festival of Christmas, specifically, bears within it peace, goodness, human warmth, hope, charity, and humor, those very characteristics which have always distinguished the people of Russia, including those of Russian nationality. I think that on this festival all this will come about. Yes, there are many children present here who are physically ill. But you know, Christ said, and it is written in the Bible, that even if there is the spirit, it is not important in what physical body it is, the important thing is what the person is like. Therefore, with any small person, however he feels, the main thing is that within him there smoulders the feeling of a human being, the pride of a human being, a feeling for Russia. At last, Russia is acquiring its freedom, a Russia which is now recognised by all the world, a Russia which has for the first time become a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. Such as thing has never happened in Russia's history. We must be proud of this.

Of course, among the children there are those who want to feel constantly around them the warmth of adults. I appeal to adults to be with these children constantly, so that they should constantly sense our concern for them and not feel this longing in any circumstances. I am grateful to the organizers of today's children's Christmas ball, devoted to the festival, for organizing it, and I think it will go very well. There are very many Santa Clauses and Grandfather Frosts here who have today brought considerable sums of money to support those children who need this support. We shall not forget these children. We shall not leave these children in misfortune, and even in the very hardest times, Russia will definitely find the necessary resources for this. Personally, not for publicity, but bearing in mind that I have an international charitable fund, although I cannot take out a single cent out of it for myself, I can use it for charity, and I want to give the organizers of today's soiree my commitment to donate 50,000 dollars for boarding schools and orphanages for the orphaned children of soldiers who served in Afghanistan. [applause]

I want to congratulate everybody once more on the festival of Christmas. You have remained kind, all the same. At perhaps the hardest time in our life this year, you must stay warm and close to each other and be human. You must not now, even at this time, allow yourselves to show the callous side of the life and character of people, under any circumstances, since it might then remain in your heart for ever. You must not become embittered now, I would say. You must not do that either. You must keep these feelings of love for your fellow men. If we keep these feelings, we shall win back Russia. A happy Christmas and New Year to us all. This new year may be difficult, but may it in the end be victorious for us all and for Russia. Happy Christmas! [applause]

Burbulis on Foreign Ministry Reorganization

LD1001142292 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1200 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Report by Yu. Reshetnikov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Russian State Secretary Gennadiy Burbulis today met with Ministry of Foreign Affairs staff, and some of what he had to say could scarcely have pleased those assembled at the building on Smolensk Square.

The state secretary reported that within a month the union Ministry of Foreign Affairs is to be completely reorganized, and in choosing staff for the new structure the main criterion will be their professionalism and ability to fit into the framework of the reforms being implemented in Russia. In its new form, the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stressed Gennadiy Burbulis, intends to escape from the old traditions of nepotism and false activity, typical of the former ministry.

[Begin Burbulis recording] If in the past diplomats were terrified of doing something wrong, and it was better to say nothing and just sit there, today you should be afraid of something else: doing a day's work without achieving something. [end recording]

Moreover, the new Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs intends, as Burbulis said, to clarify its relations with the state bodies that have traditionally worked under the ministry's roof.

[Begin Burbulis recording] We are in favor of tying these structures in with the state's genuine requirements, while not violating the tasks of state security. [end recording]

Former Foreign Minister Boris Pankin made a general appeal, as you know, to get rid of intelligence staff masquerading as Soviet diplomats.

Burbulis Interviewed on New Commonwealth

LD1301014492 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1940 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Interview with Gennadiy Eduardovich Burbulis, Russian first vice prime minister, by correspondent Svanidze; place and date not given; from the "Face to Face With Russia" program—live or recorded]

[Text] [Svanidze] Good evening. Today we are in the familiar office on the Staraya Ploshchad visiting Gennadiy Burbulis, first vice prime minister of Russia. Gennadiy Eduardovich, it has been a long time since we last met and during this time a great deal of water has flowed under the bridge—it flows quickly these days. In particular, when we talked the last time we were all feeling the impact of the unusual move which made it possible to get rid of the dead structures of the old Union and create the Commonwealth of Independent States. The Commonwealth is now coming up against some serious economic problems. Let us begin with these: In particular, as far as the ruble is concerned—a two week delay was given. Russia agrees to that as far as price liberalization is concerned, and as a result there is no single ruble zone, because the Ukraine begun using coupons and is introducing them very rapidly. Sobchak thinks that an economic war is beginning between the republics of the Commonwealth of Independent States. What is your opinion in this connection?

[Burbulis] We have, all of us, emerged from the same self-seeking, suspicious system, the Soviet communist system, where a lack of trust, where the desire to resolve one's own problems at the expense of others was fairly well developed and stable. The Commonwealth has the heritage that it has and there are some positive and totally irreversible elements in it today—in particular we are able, each in our own territory, to make decisions in a sufficiently consistent way and to answer for the way in which they are executed without nodding in anyone's direction. On the other hand, there is some romantic and euphoric realization in my view of the fact that one is an independent state, with this absolutely natural naivety that one can solve all problems at one go with one's own efforts. The Ukraine introduced coupons. There were sufficiently vital reasons for doing so. In entering the market we have to protect people with food and this can be done with coupons like ration cards to the value of which there are guaranteed types of output. Is it understandable? It is. Is it Soviet? It is. Is it socialist? Yes, it is socialist. But the consequences are ambiguous. This is, simultaneously, a concrete wall against the market itself. For our part, however, we are convinced that all attempts to promise that one shall have one's own currency in our own day and thereby orientate people towards certain advantages here with regard to the other states of the Commonwealth, we are convinced that they are neither justified nor well-founded. One ought not to deceive the economy, one ought not to deceive the program of reforms which we will carry out together with the Russians, and in this respect one ought not to deceive the laws of economic dependence one upon another which we will go on observing for many a long year yet.

[Svanidze] So you think that there is a certain attempt being made to deceive?

[Burbulis] Not from the point of view of deliberate lies, but from the point of habits, administrative, economic, and political habits, from the point of view of an inability to see the main thing in all the reforming activity. We have to stabilize finances, and this painful procedure has its own inexorable logic which has to be observed, however painfully it may be felt.

[Svanidze] So you do not agree with Anatoliy Aleksandrovich Sobchak's harsh formulation regarding the outbreak of economic war?

[Burbulis] No, I do not agree. This is a perfectly natural attempt to resolve the interests of the population of one's own state within the scope and terms which are customary and accepted, at the expense, as it were, of others, as it were, by fencing oneself off from the common economic space at any price, including at the price of real economic consequences.

[Svanidze] What is your view of the problem of ruble intervention? Is there such a problem in your view?

[Burbulis] If you are saying that the mass of cash which has now built up in various states of the Commonwealth might suddenly flood on to the territory of Russia and enslave us, there is such a danger, but there is no threat of any avalanche.

[Svanidze] Continuing the theme of the problems of the Commonwealth, the Army, the division of the Army, and in the case in question, the Black Sea Fleet. Foreign Minister Kozyrev, as is proper for his post, gives quite an oblique assessment of the situation. Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin's statement was absolutely definite and clear, and in my view just, because he is taking account of people's condition in Russia, their mood, and primarily of the key groups, such as seamen, in particular. What do you think, is a compromise possible regarding the Black Sea Fleet, and how, to what extent, can Russia make concessions?

[Burbulis] I can report to the esteemed people of Russia that in Kiev yesterday [11 January] a state delegation of Russia had a meeting at parity level with a corresponding delegation of the Ukraine. It even had a meeting with Leonid Makarovich Kravchuk, and even today there are quite convincing, optimistic results from this style of work. This singles out the actual strategic armed forces, regarding which there is agreement among all states, including the Ukraine, that they will be under joint command for a prolonged period, and this also concerns the strategic forces located at sea, including the Black Sea Fleet. We are talking about those armed forces which can be reduced over a definite timespan, some types of weapons over a year, some over three or five years, and finally, conventional armed forces which could painlessly become the foundation of states' armed forces. And it is wonderful that the Ukrainian delegation has endorsed this approach, and that with regard to the Black Sea Fleet agreement is emerging concerning these or those combat units, it is wonderful that the delegations have reached agreement to implement in coordination the procedure which had given cause for concern to everyone, I mean, taking new oaths at officer and rank and file level. So I can say with satisfaction today that the alarm, the anxiety, the psychological and political conflict which had been escalating last week concerning the Ukraine's position and concerning statements by our leaders, is now irrelevant. And it can be said in parallel that the states of the Commonwealth are to a large extent adhering to the agreement, in particular, Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev has stressed over and over that Kazakhstan has no intention of forcing this issue on its territory, and fully endorses its agreement with the accords in Minsk and Alma-Ata.

This is where one can say that the Minsk and Alma-Ata agreements form the base and the foundation for today's processes. But where to a certain extent they are undergoing revision, this kind of process of agreement and negotiation, involving experts and conciliation, is possible between states.

[Svanidze] Perhaps you might even give a one word answer to this question, Gennadiy Eduardovich: The subjects we have just been discussing—the economic difficulties, the difficulties facing the Commonwealth, problems with dividing up the Army—in your view, do they cast doubt upon the strength of the Commonwealth or not?

[Burbulis] In my opinion, no, they do not. They simply indicate that it was simply naive and wrong to expect that the level of mutual understanding, cloudless and radiant, would be of the kind we have become accustomed to having in past years. No, in this case the member states of the Commonwealth are elucidating their real interests, their participation in the Commonwealth, and their real forms.

[Svanidze] They are getting to know each other.

[Burbulis] Yes, they are, as it were, defining their approaches more precisely.

[Svanidze] About the reform, Gennadiy Eduardovich. A week ago I spoke about this with Yegor Timurovich Gaydar, but a week has gone by and in some of his replies, in fact, Yegor Timurovich was diplomatic. I would like to know your opinion. What surprises did the government see some time after the start of price liberalization? Is it ready for these surprises?

[Burbulis] Ten days of price liberalization—but I want to stress again and again that the reforms do not amount just to the new prices policy. At the same time we have set in motion the mechanism of a fairly radical reform in the countryside with our three documents. At the same time the system of privatization measures in the economy has become more intelligible and clear. At the same time we have been setting up what can be called the social protection sphere in all its essential blocks. My object in giving this reply is to stress again and again that it is a question of changing economic ties and economic relationships in their entirety. It does not just boil down to prices policy. At the same time the main attention of both the population and the producers and managers has been concentrated on how this procedure would begin. You ask about surprises. There were no surprises of the kind that would have plunged us into a state of bewilderment or alternatively that would have forced us to be on our guard. We have to find an efficient, simple, intelligible, and constructive legal and organizational mechanism ensuring the privatization chain: the trading collective, the distributing collective, what is today called the trading bases, the state distribution; the processing collective, say a meat combine or a milk combine; and finally the producer of the agricultural produce from which this dance of the prices, this game of the prices, begins. Thus, peasants today deliver meat to the meat combine at prices considerably in excess of these sums in terms of cost—40 to 50 rubles. And the natural jacking-up of the prices starts, in a practically arbitrary fashion, at each of these stages. We then find ourselves faced with the absurd result whereby the meat on the shop counter costs 200 rubles or more.

Our task lies not so much, and not only, in wagging our finger severely that the relevant normatives have been violated at each of these links in the chain, but in understanding that a totally precise privatization chain is required.

[Svanidze] You said that privatization measures have been made more precise, Gennadiy Eduardovich. Where does this actually lie?

[Burbulis] In not restraining the process, but perhaps, in proposing a faster pace for it, in finding a possibility to explain to the people of Russia, and to give them an interest in the fact that privatization permits their direct participation in its various forms, in particular, say, share flotation, which we shall now actively implement. Finally, we shall be stimulating to the utmost the privatization process in this chain: producers of agricultural output, processing structures, and the trade sphere. If we succeed in the coming six to eight weeks in moving this wall, if we are able to ensure, in this timescale, reliable legal and normative protection for those who take this up, and at the same time prove to the people of Russia who stay outside this process that it is in their interests, too, I think that we will all cope with this job together.

[Svanidze] You said that it is now not enough just to wag your finger. But, nevertheless, it is probably often necessary to do this. We criticized the Union president because his decrees were not being carried out and he issued new ones for the old ones to be implemented. What is the situation at present with implementation of the decisions of the president and the government? How is executive power functioning vertically?

[Burbulis] It varies. We have territories where executive power, at the level of head of administration, and his cabinet, is functioning fully in our rhythm, in our mode, and there are territories which are not rushing. There is only one conclusion here: What is required today is a proper combination of those measures which change the direct economic interest, which objectively compel decisions to be taken in the direction of market relations, and a more precise, better secured sphere for the power and administrative implementation of reforms. We shall, by the end of January, be completing an expert analysis, in all regions of Russia, of this tense month of January. On the basis of the content of this inquiry we shall be holding a meeting with the heads of administration and taking the appropriate decisions, including decisions relating to personnel. We absolutely cannot allow, in conditions of tasks of this kind, leaders to be retained who either cannot carry them out or, for one reason or another, sabotage or ignore this work.

[Svanidze] A question on a slightly different subject, Gennadiy Eduardovich. As a democrat by conviction, and as a philosopher by education, and by the nature of your work, you have always welcomed the existence of a constructive opposition in society and in the state. What is your current attitude to a constructive opposition? Could it have a place now, too, and if so, what would be the area of its activity and the area of its relations and arguments with the government?

[Burbulis] I believe that the need for it, for genuine reforms with democratic prospects, is enduring. But both the component parts are important here. For me, the constructiveness of an opposition lies in opponents accepting our ultimate aims, in their being in agreement with our strategic tasks, and, in the form of an opposition, in correcting the means and methods by which the government's actions are received.

This is constructiveness within the framework of the reforms. Everything else is a destructive position where the attempt is made to negate our measures, and, in doing so, little is proposed in parallel or in exchange, or perfectly natural Soviet incantations are offered: bring about order, attain the observation of discipline, appoint managers in a more intelligent way and their assistants in a more just way, and then we shall start to live better and produce more. One would of course not wish such a position, although it exists today already and we feel that there is a favorable environment for revanchist, communist, and ultra-socialist murmurings and for such a national-bolshevist association in this area.

But there is an even more favorable environment for those social groups and professional groups which have ultimately understood that the sooner we tear out the roots of the corrupt and cost-intensive Soviet economy, the faster we shall sow normal seeds on the new property relations and the more reliable and calm will be the intellectual and political climate here in Russia.

I am in favor of constructive opposition in distinct, clear forms of its being conducted, and in favor of a systematic, competent, and professional dialogue with this kind of opposition.

[Svanidze] Gennadiy Eduardovich, many government members have repeatedly commented that during a period of crisis, the government always works on a provisional basis, it is provisional, and at times, even short term. But it seems to me that as an observation of political science it is interesting and accurate, but nevertheless, a government which nevertheless considers itself provisional ... this does not always calm the population.

[Burbulis] I want to excuse myself for those intonations which perhaps, someone somewhere told someone, including from among our cabinet colleagues and advisors. But in fact, we are working very confidently. We feel ourselves sufficiently convinced to be able to bring this work to a normal and logical conclusion. Our task is to make the reforms irreversible, and this is as interesting as it is a long-term task. And what is involved is not the provisonal nature of the personae—better, more capable, more knowledgeable people may be found—and that is normal. What is involved is that this program of reforms may not be provisional; and the approach whose foundations we are laying to ensure that they become irreversible may not be provisional.

In this regard, both the president and the government are in complete unanimity, in solidarity, and we are not experiencing decadence, weariness, and hopelessness.

[Svanidze] So you do not regard yourselves as political figures of the transitional stage?

[Burbulis] We regard ourselves as people who see the staggering—in terms of size and significance—range of tasks, who are confident that, together with the whole population of Russia, these tasks are capable of resolution, and that today there is probably no political force which would be capable of depriving us of this confidence and conviction. So we do not regard ourselves as provisional.

But the common cause which we are making today is our collective attainment, and it is doubtful that anyone would be capable of making a proposal in this respect in a more distinct, clear, resolute, balanced, and professional manner. We are inspired both by the support of Russians, and the political authority of the president and head of government, Boris Yeltsin, and more and more the esprit de corps of the advisors which is being formed within the government on specific matters already.

[Svanidze] Thank you very much for the interview, Gennadiy Eduardovich. All the best, until we meet again.

Burbulis on CIS Creation Complications

LD1201235592 Moscow TASS in English 2106 GMT 12 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Dmitriy Gorokhov]

[Text] Stockholm January 12 TASS—Russia will abide by the agreements signed in Minsk and Alma-Ata, Russian State Secretary Gennadiy Burbulis said on Sunday [12 January].

In an interview with the Swedish newspaper DAGENS NYHETER, Burbulis said Russia will not undertake any initiative hampering the process started by the creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

"It would be naive to think that we can solve fast all problems caused by the totalitarian Communist regime and cure the illness without complications," Burbulis said.

Speaking about the dispute over the Black Sea Fleet, Burbulis warned against playing up the existing contradictions between Russia and Ukraine and stressed the dispute does not threaten the existence of the Commonwealth.

The State Secretary refused to comment on the statement made by the NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA newspaper (INDEPENDENT GAZETTE) on Saturday [11 January] that Russia intends to announce itself the legal successor of the Soviet Union in defence issues, the Swedish newspaper said.

"You should remember that Russia finances the largest part of the armed forces of the former Soviet Union. The majority of soldiers are Russians, therefore Russia bears the major responsibility and plays a special role in this issue," Burbulis said.

Burbulis on Need for 'Single Economic Space'

LD1301092692 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0807 GMT 13 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 13 Jan (TASS)—Just over a month has passed since the formation of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS]. However, already, alongside some political tensions between the founders of the CIS, "the issue of the creation of a single economic space is becoming increasingly urgent." This was stated by Gennadiy Burbulis, state councillor of the Russian Federation, first deputy chairman of the republic's government, to a TASS correspondent. He said that it is "natural" that some of the newly independent states are now looking for an independent way out of the complex economic situation, and first, regarding the consumer market, by introducing various coupons, ration systems, and similar restrictive measures. However, as is happening now in the Ukraine, for example, the coupons simply are starting to oust rubles from the Republic's territory, and the ruble avalanche may gush into the Russian market, leading to severe inflationary shocks.

"I stress, Gennadiy Burbulis said, that the coupons are a logical continuation of the development of our "Soviet-style" consciousness, and they are excusable as long as the members of the CIS view economic reforms as a flexible, well-coordinated process. [quotation marks as received]

"It is becoming apparent," the first vice premier continued, "that this measure, on the one hand, is justified, and on the other, painful." Gennadiy Burbulis expressed the hope that "a normal professional awareness of the need for a single ruble area facilitating a coordinated program of reform and the convertibility of our long-suffering ruble" will prevail in the end among the member-states of the Commonwealth.

He also noted that all the CIS members currently lacked "the resources, funds, and capacity to introduce their own currency as 'an instant remedy.'" The Russian first vice premier pointed out that they need "to bear in mind the economic consequences which would be associated with such a step in the near future."

Will the Russian Government opt for any confrontational measures if its already impoverished market is flooded by rubles from "coupon" republics? "Russia will not embark on any confrontation in any sphere whatsoever, including the economic sphere," Gennadiy Burbulis insisted. "We are endeavoring to use all our opportunities, including so-called power methods, as correctly as possible, in a principled fashion. This means the maximum diplomatic tact, maximum political responsibility, and maximum professionalism."

Burbulis on Black Sea Fleet Negotiations

LD1101195592 Moscow TASS in English 1903 GMT 11 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow January 11 TASS—"Russia favours the observance of the Minsk and Alma-Ata agreements. We are doing our utmost for ensuring stable relations with Ukraine, with due account for our history, the real situation and our joint future," Gennadiy Burbulis, secretary of state of the Russian Federation and first vice premier of the Russian Government, said today in the exclusive TASS interview, responding to the question about the future of the Black Sea Fleet.

"One should not ignore the fact that the history of the Armed Forces of the former Soviet Union involves not only the area of deployment of this or that unit, but also specific laws of managing military equipment and the specific forms of the organisation and economic supply in the military sphere."

In the opinion of the Russian vice premier, one should rule out both "the naive, pointedly geographical approach to the problem and hasty, even if well-wishing, decisions, which do not take into consideration the whole of the perspective of the Commonwealth member states and the requirements, which, in my opinion, are not assessed skilfully enough."

Burbulis recalled that a state delegation of the Russian Federation, formed in accordance with the instruction of the Russian president, arrived in Kiev today. It was assigned to hold talks with representatives of all member states of the new Commonwealth and discuss with them military and political issues, connected with their membership in the Commonwealth.

"We believe this is a normal and businesslike political level of the settlement of problems, which have become of late the focus of a special interest of journalists and the public. It is important for us to avoid hasty comments and statements of politicians, and to make this crucial problem a subject of a normal negotiating process, in the course of which experts and leaders of the Commonwealth members state will be able to make effective decisions and issue corresponding statements," Burbulis said.

Gaydar Views Transition to Market Economy

LD1001140292 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 2010 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Now from military matters we switch to economic problems that trouble all members of the Commonwealth. The Russian Vice Premier Yegor Gaydar has spoken of the first steps of his republic on the road to the market in a meeting with journalists. We are convinced, Gaydar said, that the course we are suggesting is prompted not by abstract macroeconomic considerations, but strict sociopolitical logic. If we can be criticized for something, it is only for the lack of determination and strength to break the resistance of the other republics and start out earlier—I accept criticism for that.

And here's what Yegor Gaydar said of the first results of price liberalization:

So far everything fits in the forecasts. Naturally no one expected that the stores would be filled in the first days after price liberalization. This would run counter to economic logic, common sense, and international experience. It takes at least several weeks for economic factors to come into action and adapt to new forms of behavior, for the new communication channels to open up, and new marketing structures to appear.

But what if they do not appear in the next three or four weeks? What will the government do then? Here's the answer of the Russian vice premier:

In this case, the government will take additional steps and continue its policy of price liberalization and limiting the dynamics of demand. I'm absolutely convinced that in one way or another, in six if not four weeks, goods will appear. The only thing that can stop the process of price liberalization is a political retreat.

If there appear any signs of social tension the government plans some additional measures. Firstly, make recourse to everything there is in the state reserves, limited as they are, as the vice premier stressed. Secondly, humanitarian aid that has started pouring in will be used. The third channel is the maximum use, as of the end of January, of the resources received on the basis of EC credit. And finally, stores of goods accumulated in view of price liberalization. All this, Yegor Gaydar hoped, will give the government the possibility to act at this first difficult stage of reform.

Gaydar Sees No Alternative for Economic Policy

LD1301032792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] In the view of Yegor Gaydar, vice premier of the Russian Federation Government, the evolution now taking place in the republic is the only possible way out of the serious economic situation. In an interview with the French magazine PARIS-MATCH, he stated that the reforms, including price liberalization, should have been started six months ago. If the reforms had been postponed until later, the consequences would have been disastrous, Yegor Gaydar stressed. The country, the vice premier declared, is now experiencing one of the most critical phases. According to some estimates, there may be up to 4 million unemployed in Russia in the summer. In order to hold out, Yegor Gaydar emphasized, it is essential to see that a stable consumer market is created and that the growth of inflation is limited to 5-6 percent a month.

Export Ban of Scarce Goods Explained

LD1001213692 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1253 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Report by TASS correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow, 10 Jan (TASS)—The introduction of a ban by the Russian Government on the export of nearly 60 types of foodstuffs and consumer goods in short supply from Russian territory, as of today, by no means is an announcement of the beginning of "trade wars" between the former republics of the Union. "This is a protective measure by the Russian Federation," Vladimir Mashchits, chairman of the state committee on economic cooperation with the member-states of the Commonwealth of Independent States [CIS], said in an interview with a TASS correspondent.

"Russia is not the first of the republics of the former Union to introduce restrictions on the export of goods from its territory. Effectively, all member-states of the CIS are now doing this," the minister pointed out. In his opinion, the question of the formation by the CIS countries of a single economic space "has not yet been removed from the agenda yet," and today's complex situation on the consumer markets of the republics makes the process of regulation of exports of goods in short supply from their territory only natural.

Vladimir Mashchits stated that this evening he is leaving for Kiev to hold negotiations on a broad spectrum of economic problems "beginning with questions of the finance and supply of the Armed Forces and ending with reciprocal deliveries of the output of Russia and the Ukraine."

The introduction of a ban on the export of a number of goods in very short supply from Russian territory from 10 January is envisaged by a decision of the Russian cabinet "on the limitation of the export of consumer goods from the Russian Federation" of 29 December 1991. According to the document, "special permanent [statsionarnyye] checkpoints for the export of consumer goods at crossing points of the Russian borders, as well as at stations, airports, maritime and river ports" are to be set up within a week. The list of goods which must not be exported includes meat, butter, fish, cheese, tea, coffee, sugar, flour, tobacco, wine, as well as fabrics, footware, electrical items, samovars, thermos flasks, beds, locks, construction materials, and plumbing goods.

Resolution on Export Tariffs Introduced

OW1001184792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1743 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The government of Russia issued a special resolution on January 10 to introduce export tariffs on certain goods taken out of the Russian Federation. The export tariffs were set in ECUs [European currency units] per units of weight. Payments of export duties will be accepted in roubles and computed on the basis of the rouble's market rate of exchange for hard currencies.

Export Tariffs for Basic Fuels

Item	Export Tariff Per 1 Metric Ton
Oil	26
Gas	24
Fuel coal	8
Coking coal	13
Black oil	24
Diesel fuel	51
Petrol	57

Coupon Use Implies Reversion to Barter System

PM1301090192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 8 Jan 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast: Report read by announcer]

[Text] [Announcer] As for reaction to the price rises, according to our information there has been none of any note so far. Clearly, people still have food in their refrigerators. What concerns Russians most now is the question of whether or not they will be overwhelmed by an avalanche of rubles from the republics. After all, the majority of sovereign states intend to introduce their own currency and the first steps in this direction have already been taken—reusable coupons have been brought out. We already know that the Ukraine pays 20 percent of its people's wages with such coupons, which are accepted in preference to rubles when purchasing goods. Whereas in Belarus, 60 percent of wages are paid in such coupons. It is not hard to grasp the logic applied by these republics' leaders. They want to supply their own people, and to hell with everyone else—you can use your rubles in Russia. But as a representative of the Russian Central Bank told us, by February the government intends to call in each republic's debts in ready cash. A debt is a debt. The question is, how should they be repaid? Especially as nobody wants worthless rubles.

[L.M. Alyakina, Central Bank of the Russian Federation staffer] I think that the government will work out a mechanism involving supplies of goods and produce as payment.

[Announcer] Thus, the introduction of coupons has forced us once again to use the barter system, which we could well do without.

Banker Denies Rumors of Coupon Introduction

LD1301150292 Moscow TASS in English 1444 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Report by TASS correspondent Pyotr Tsyrendorzhiyev]

[Text] Moscow January 13 TASS—A Russian bank official denied rumours republican coupons are going to be introduced in Russia as of January 15. "New currency cannot be introduced that fast. It's a huge amount of cash. This is all far-fetched," Vladimir Rasskazov, deputy chairman of the Russian Central Bank, told TASS on Monday [13 January].

But Rasskazov refused to dwell on the problem, saying that all leading bank officials agreed to refrain from interviews "in these troublesome times."

Sergey Kolesnikov, an assistant to Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yegor Gaydar, was more categoric in denying the rumours. "No monetary reform is being planned for the coming days." The assistant was confirming Gaydar's own statement made on Moscow TV on Sunday.

But rumours spread fast and people have been calling TASS all day today from throughout Russia, asking to clarify the situation.

Yeltsin Blamed for Possible Break With Ukraine

LD1001222392 Berlin ADN in German 2109 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Hamburg (ADN)—Serious accusations have been levelled against Russian President Boris Yeltsin by his adviser Yuriy Afanasyev. In an interview with the HAMBURGER ABENDBLATT (Saturday [11 January] edition), Afanasyev says that Yeltsin is responsible for the threatened break between Russia and the Ukraine. Such a break could mean that the Ukraine might take its bearings wholly from the West, while Russia could move away from Europe toward the Central Asian-Islamic sphere of influence. The equilibrium between the Slavic and Islamic world can be maintained only if Russia and the Ukraine are prepared to cooperate. In the absence of this, I cannot rule out a "geopolitical earthquake," the reform politician says.

With Yeltsin wanting to assume the legal succession to the USSR, as well as raising territorial claims toward other republics, there is growing suspicion among others in the Commonwealth of Independent States that Russia aims at "again placing itself at the head of a reconstructed hierarchy."

Afanasyev also criticizes Russian Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy. Because Rutskoy enjoys great confidence among the population, he could effect "social explosions" with his demagogic statements that could "sweep away" Yeltsin. In this, the vice president makes use of the old Russian tradition of "egalitarianism and collectivism, on which the Bolshevik Party was based as well."

Finance Official on Status of Foreign Debt

LD1001165392 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1454 GMT 10 Jan 92

[By Biznes-TASS correspondent Pavel Karikov]

[Text] Moscow, 10 Jan (Biznes-TASS)—We are satisfied with the progress of talks on current payments of the foreign debt for 1992, and we received the agreement of creditors to postpone the payment of 11 trillion dollars, Petr Aven, chairman of the Russian Committee for Foreign Economic Links, said in an interview with a TASS correspondent. According to information from the World Bank, the USSR's foreign debt totals 57-71 trillion dollars.

However, according to Petr Aven, so far none of the republics is making payments to the joint fund for servicing the foreign debt in accordance with the quotas set by them.

"No one refused to pay their debts. Everyone promises to pay, but whether they will do this, we will see in the near future," he said.

Petr Aven also reported that at present Russia's share of the total foreign debt is 80-85 percent, while its quota is 60 percent.

50,000 Neocommunists Demonstrate for Union

LD1201131192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1200 GMT 12 Jan 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The center of Moscow is cordoned off today. Neocommunists gathered in Manezh square, demanding that power be given to the working people. This is rather an interesting demand since they do not say how to do this. They actively oppose democratic authorities, economic reforms, and the introduction of private property in the country. The demonstrators, numbering nearly 50,000 people, played and sang the national anthem of the Soviet Union. All those who gathered there unanimously voted for the restoration of the Soviet Union and demanded that Russian President Yeltsin come to see them. The demonstrators say that if he refuses to do so, they will picket the White House on 9 January [date as heard].

Similar mass meetings of Bolsheviks are set to take place today in St. Petersburg, Ashkhabad, Chelyabinsk, and Rostov.

Demonstrators' Demands Viewed

LD1201162492 Moscow TASS in English 1556 GMT 12 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Amelin]

[Text] Moscow January 12 TASS—About 50,000 communist-minded citizens rallied in the centre of Moscow on Sunday, demanding a resignation of Russian leaders.

The demonstrators criticised the Russian leadership for raising prices, selling the country to businessmen and ruining the state and the Army.

"Only true government by the people, not presidents, can rescue the country from the crisis," Vladimir Shebarshin, a worker from a Moscow machine-building plant, said.

He urged the demonstrators to join the Russian Communist Party, which he called "a real vanguard of the working people".

Former Soviet Deputy Leonid Sukhov from Kharkov stressed the need to "take under workers' control manufactured products and their distribution".

Aleksandr Terekhov, leader of the Union of Army Officers, condemned Commonwealth states for their attempts to create their own armed forces.

The demonstrators chanted their disapproval to the Commonwealth of Independent States and called for the restoration of the Soviet Union under communist rule.

They adopted a resolution calling for resolute, but so far peaceful, steps, including a march to the Russian White House on February 9.

'Labor Russia' Criticizes Yeltsin

LD1201180492 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1700 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] Supporters of the communist ideal have held a rally in Moscow. The movement Labor Russia and a number of other hardline organizations have brought to it some 10,000 people. The rally subjected President Yeltsin's line to severe criticism. Speakers held the Russian leader responsible for the dramatic fall in the people's living standards and the breakup of the Soviet Union and its Armed Forces. The participants in the rally were mostly senior citizens. They demanded that the Government stay in control of all the spheres of the economy and carry out a safety net programme.

Army Urged To Take Power

OW1201161992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1445 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Addressing Muscovites Major Vaschenko urged the army to "do its constitutional duty, take power in the country in its own hands and bring Gorbachev with other traitors to military tribunal." He spoke at a demonstration of protest staged in Moscow's Manezh Square on Sunday [12 January].

According to the police, the meeting gathered some 50,000 people who protested against price hikes and economic policy pursued by Russia's government. It was organized by the movement "Working Moscow" and by a number of pro-communist movements.

Speaking on behalf of the "Officers' Union" Lt-Colonel Stanislav Terekhov accused the authorities of having split the country. "The patriotic-minded forces will not allow the army to be disintegrated; they won't let our nuclear forces be placed under NATO's control," he said.

The leaders of pro-communist organizations V. Anpilov and V. Tyulkin urged the Muscovites to join the march on Russia's parliament planned for February 9. They said they are planning to picket the army officers' assembly to be held in Moscow on January 17.

Communist Rally Detailed

PM1201193092 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Jan 92 First Edition p 1

[Inna Muravyeva report: "The 'Varshavyanka' Was Played, Red Banners Fluttered, and the Specter of Communism Stalked Manezh Square"]

[Text] As Viktor Anpilov, first secretary of the Moscow organizational bureau of the Russian Communist Workers Party, promised the Muscovites long ago, a communist rally was held in Manezh Square 12 January, bringing together representatives of movements like "Trudovaya Moskva" ["Labor Moscow"], the United Front of Working People, "Yedinstvo," and the All-Union Communist Party of Bolsheviks. "Nashi" ["Our Boys"] were here, and so, of course, were the ubiquitous members of Zhirinovskiy's Liberal Democratic Party, who never miss anything.

By 1000 hours the demonstrators were on their way to Manezh Square, carrying red banners, portraits of the great leaders—Lenin and Stalin, and in some cases also portraits of the authors of the "Communist Manifesto," Marx and Engels. The slogans could not have been more familiar, from the old days. "Long live the Lenin Komsomol—reliable helper and reserve of the CPSU!" "Long live the USSR!"... There were also some that were new to this always "dutiful" public: "President Yeltsin and the Russian Government—resign." That slogan was cheered by those present.

It was a long time before the rally got started. Revolutionary songs were played over the loudspeakers.

At about 1100 the rally began. According to the militia's estimates, by that time some 6,000 people had gathered in the square. True, the speakers gave a considerably higher figure. And there were many speakers that day. For instance, People's Deputy Leonid Sukhov lamented that "nowadays working people are not receiving the vitamins and calories they need to develop our state." But many of the speakers were particularly eager to hear the "communist economist" Sergeyev. The announcer, giving him the floor, said that an alternative to the Russian president's economic program would now be heard. Apart from an impassioned indictment of the "powers that be" and a call for Gorbachev to be brought before a tribunal, the economist Sergeyev dwelt "all too briefly" on his own economic program. Its main point amounted to confiscating immediately the "tens of billions of dollars concentrated in the hands of private businessmen in Moscow and St. Petersburg... using them to buy food abroad, and distributing it properly."

Military Advisor Urges Prompt Oath to Russia

OW1201210192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1735 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lt.-General Viktor Samoylov, military adviser to Russia's government, believes that it's necessary to take the oath approved by President Boris Yeltsin now. Many servicemen from Russia undergo army service in other Commonwealth states and are obliged to comply with their laws, on the one hand, and remain loyal to Russia, on the other, he said.

The former prime minister Pavlov and former defence minister Yazov hindered the endeavors to form Russia's own committee for defence affairs from the very beginning, General Samoylov said in an exclusive interview with IF [INTERFAX]. Dmitry Yazov, for one, prohibited to transfer officers to serve under Russian authorities.

As for the defence ministry's commission on analysing the activity of senior officers during the August coup, under its recommendations 80 people have been demoted, said V. Samoylov.

Union Military Unit Subordination Considered

LD1001235292 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2100 GMT 10 Jan 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The RUSSIAN INFORMATION AGENCY reports that Russian government circles have prepared draft documents which, in certain situations, inter alia, envisage subordinating all Soviet military contingents to the leadership of the Russian Federation, irrespective of their location.

[Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian at 2000 GMT on 10 January reports: "One of the documents states that the possibility of transferring control of all military contingents to the Russian leadership will be considered if the Commonwealth of Independent States fails to resolve disputes over ways of sharing control of the Army."]

'Shchit' Conference Held on Problems With Army

LD1301032492 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1200 GMT 11 Jan 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] There were practically no emotions at today's conference of the Russian union of servicemen "Shchit." The assessment of the situation which has taken shape in the Armed Forces was simple and convincing. The hasty reduction of the Army's strength, the swearing of the oath of allegiance to Commonwealth states, and the division of Armed Forces among the Commonwealth members will lead to the disintegration of the security system and, consequently, to the loss of defense capability. Specific measures were put forward: to start negotiations at the level of heads of states regarding the fate of the Army; to set up immediately Russian national guards; and to carry out a radical and democratic military reform in Russia. Its main points are as follows: the removal of ideology, the openness of military budget, the reduction of the amount of generals, the setting up of a trade union of servicemen for their social protection. Nikolay Moskovchenko, co-chairman of "Shchit," known for his decisiveness, suggested a law on not using the Army against one's own people—criminal liability for executing a criminal order of those who give it and those who carry it out.

Regional Affairs

Chechen, Ingush Border Situation Deteriorating

Ingush Ask for 'Emergency Situation'

LD1201181992 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1618 GMT 12 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy, 12 Jan (TASS)—A mass rally in Sunzhenskiy rayon of the former Checheno-Ingush continues for the third day running. The Ingush population is protesting the Chechen republican parliament's attempts to define borders between Chechen and Ingush and to include the major part of Sunzhenskiy rayon into the Chechen Republic. Armed pickets were set up along the rayon's borders.

It became known today that leaders of the people's council of Ingushetia have proposed to the Russian leadership that an emergency situation be introduced in Ingushetia. Ruslan Tatiyev, the chairman of the rayon soviet of people's deputies, told TASS that all previous structures of power are being preserved in Ingush and that they wish to remain within Russia.

Not all Ingush residents feel the same way. Representatives of the Ingush council of elders have also sent a telegram to the Russian leadership in which they categorically object to the introduction of the emergency situation and express a wish to unite with Chechen to form a single Vaynakh republic.

The rayon department of the militia has reported that people are only debating, fortunately, and that the situation is under control.

State of Emergency Declared

PM1201201092 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Jan 92 p 1

[Untitled report from PRAVDA-TASS column]

[Text] The situation has deteriorated sharply in Sunzhenskiy Rayon, on the border between Chechnya and Ingushetia. The Ingush population, who constitute the majority there, held a protest rally against a Chechen parliament resolution that has been published, defining the borders between Chechnya and Ingushetia. The Ingush have set up pickets on the rayon's borders and are forming their own guard. Following decisions of the rayon soviets, the imposition of a state of emergency has been announced in Sunzhenskiy, Nazranovskiy, and Malgobekskiy rayons. For the time being, the Cossacks of Sunzhenskiy Rayon are remaining neutral.

Chechen Parliament Chairman Comments

OW1201192392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1745 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] "We received no complaints from Ingush officials about the fixing of borders between Chechen and Ingushetia or about the inclusion of Sunzhen Region in the Chechen Republic", said the chairman of the Chechen parliament Husein Ahmadov on Sunday [12 January] in answer to IF's [INTERFAX's] question.

According to H. Ahmadov, the Chechen parliament is not obliged to consider the opinion of private persons opposing the inclusion of Sunzhen Region in the Chechen Republic. "When the people of Ingushetia authorize their representatives accordingly, we'll conduct talks on all the disputes with them", he said.

According to H. Ahmadov, the Chechen Republic has no intention of aggravating tensions. It has no plans to send units of the national guard to Sunzhen Region. "The Ingushes are our brothers with whom we should maintain neighborly relations. But, on the other hand, we are not in a position to squander our land because we have too little of it", he said.

The dispute concerning Sunzhen Region should be considered in accordance with law, said H. Ahmadov.

"All citizens, including ethnic Ingushes, must abide by the laws of the Chechen Republic. Otherwise they'll have to be brought to justice", he said. According to him, the Ingushes should form their legislative bodies as soon as possible to enable the Chechen Republic to enter into negotiations with them.

Chechen Council Calls For Meeting

LD1201222892 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1900 GMT 12 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[Text] Groznyy, 12 Jan (Tass)—Groznyy television just reported that armed clashes have begun in Troitskaya village, Sunzhenskiy rayon. However, Ruslan Tatiyev, chairman of the rayon soviet, told TASS by phone that this report is conjecture and that it is provocative. The situation in Ingush settlements is under total control, he said.

The Chechen Republic council of elders, concerned with the exacerbation of relations between the Chechen and Ingush populations, today called upon all leading workers of the Ingush nationality who live in Groznyy to meet on 13 January for a joint discussion on the current situation. Speaking on local television tonight, Said-Akhmed Adizov, chairman of the council of elders, said that the definition of borders between Chechen and Ingush was not directed against the Ingush population. He said that the Chechen Republic decided to outline its borders so that the land which had belonged to the Chechen people since time immemorial would not go to Russia if Ingush decided to set up autonomy within the Russian Federation, a wish expressed by the Ingush population in last year's referendum.

Further on Yeltsin's Nizhniy Novogorod Visit

Addresses Autoworkers

PM1301103792 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Jan 92 First Edition p 1

[TASS report: "Yeltsin in the Volga Region"]

[Text] While in Nizhniy Novgorod, the Russian president did not visit the central supermarket as scheduled, and was therefore unable to assess the profusion of goods arranged there. Store assistants had been strenuously washing the shelves since the previous evening and laying out goods obtained from God knows where: fresh pike and smoked silver carp at 18 rubles [R] per kilogram, prunes, dried fruit, peas, lemons, tomato juice, and oranges. High-grade smoked sausage is R50 cheaper there than boiled sausage in a store on Maxim Gorkiy Street, where they had not gotten geared up to meeting the president.

The miracle was shortlived: Milk supplies lasted just one hour, and the elderly customers stretched as far as the exit: "All the rest cannot be bought with our money."

Prior to Boris Yeltsin's visit, the people of Nizhniy Novgorod had stood for hours in waiting lines for bread. Boris Nemtsov, head of the oblast administration, had dismissed two of his executives for this, and by the time the president arrived bread had become available. Boris Nemtsov assured a TASS correspondent that the oblast administration had issued no instructions whatsoever to the trade network with regard to the president's arrival.

The president bought an apple for R10 in the market, joking about this personal contribution of his to market relations. However, in other respects, whoever met the president told him seriously that we cannot survive without the market and market productivity.

Boris Yeltsin spent all the first part of the day at the Nizhniy Novgorod autoplant. Addressing workers in one of the truck production buildings, he stressed once again that no country in the world had traveled such a difficult road to the market as Russia. We lost a full 18 months because of the war of laws and decrees before deciding on this step. The president told the autoworkers: "You elected me president, and it was difficult for me to make such a decision, fully aware as I am of how tough the initial period of entering the market will be." Recalling that in earlier times Nizhniy Novgorod was known as the "financial hub of Russia," Boris Yeltsin expressed the wish that its inhabitants revive this good tradition, stressing the special significance of the Nizhniy Novgorod fair.

After examining examples of new equipment in the experimental design work administration, the president spent more than an hour meeting with leading specialists of the enterprise and various sectors of the national economy. This concerned the further retooling of the autogiant, the establishment of economic ties with suppliers, and the possibility of issuing shares in the plant, involving assistance from a foreign firm; the question of completing the construction of a powerful diesel production unit, in which R1.5 billion has already been invested, was the subject of special discussion. It is intended to get it ready for commissioning during the year with the assistance of the Russian government plus the support of other autoplants. As a way of financially assisting the Gorkiy Motor Vehicle Plant, the president authorized the enterprise leadership to sell 300 military vehicles—armored personnel carriers—abroad, bypassing thereby the Defense Ministry.

Views Local Situation

LD1001183192 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1700 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Our first report is on the Russian president's visit to Nizhniy Novgorod. Boris Yeltsin did not have lunch today. He refused point-blank to eat in the motor vehicle works' cafeteria when he learned that a special range of dishes had been prepared there. His gloomy impression of the food situation probably played its part here.

Sharing his impressions with journalists, Boris Yeltsin said he would remember to his dying day the price of 108 [as heard] rubles for a kilogram of butter. The president described the price situation as a thorn in the flesh, but he believes that by the end of the year the situation will improve and the pain caused by that thorn will pass.

Answering a TASS correspondent's question about how typical the situation in Nizhniy Novgorod was of the Volga cities which he had visited, Boris Yeltsin said that it had much in common with Saratov, but the situation in Ulyanovsk was better. The administrative structures governing trade there had been abolished earlier, and prices had begun to develop on a market basis. There, butter costs 40 to 50 rubles, as intended.

The president met representatives of the Nizhniy Novgorod oblast administration. He approved of the program proposed by Nizhniy Novgorod for privatization and for carrying out conversion on the basis of a tax credit, whereby the taxes on Nizhniy Novgorod's defense enterprises will not go to the Russian budget, but stay in the oblast.

In the evening, Boris Yeltsin took off for Moscow.

Comments on Talk With Major

LD1001220592 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2000 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Report by correspondent Igor Stanovov including recorded passages from interview with Russian President Boris Yeltsin in Nizhniy Novgorod on 10 January]

[Text] [Stanovov] During the morning of 10 January, President Boris Yeltsin visited one of the [Nizhniy Novgorod] city shops, where the range of goods gave rise to some doubt as to whether it was typical or not—though these doubts did not apply to the prices. The president stressed that he would never forget butter at 208 [as heard] rubles a kg [kilogram]. By contrast, the prices at the city market, also visited by Yeltsin, turned out to be lower. He went on to the Gorkiy motor vehicle plant, where he familiarized himself with current output and plans for the future. He held talks with the management of one of Russia's biggest enterprises. Ways of speeding up its modernization were discussed.

The planned visit to the apartment where Sakharov lived, which is now a museum, did not take place. In the evening, a conference was held with representatives of the soviets and the administration of Nizhniy Novgorod and its surrounding oblast. A number of practical questions relating to economic reform were discussed and even resolved.

Asked by your correspondent about the results of his three-day tour of Russian cities, Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin said:

[Begin Yeltsin recording] The outcome was, on the whole, positive. At this difficult time for the people, I think I did the right thing by making the trip and consulting people directly. The only part of today's program in Nizhniy Novgorod which lack of time prevented was the visit to the apartment where Sakharov lived, now a museum, to see the commemorative plaque which has been erected there. But, I feel the museum should be given material assistance. I am donating some of my public funds, some of the British royalties on my book, $10,000, to the museum in the hope that this example will be emulated by other leaders and, maybe, organizations so that the condition of the museum can be put right. [end recording]

[Stanovov] The Russian president also spoke about the telephone conversation which he had on 10 January in Nizhniy Novgorod with the prime minister of Great Britain, John Major.

[Begin Yeltsin recording] Mr. Major initiated the conversation. We discussed many subjects, but the highlight, I think, was the invitation for me to attend the summit meeting of the permanent members of the Security Council in New York on 31 January and to use this opportunity to discuss our common problems, above all, of course, the problems of Russia, but also to speak as the head of the Russian state, to address the United Nations as a member of the United Nations, to explain our concept of common security. I immediately accepted this invitation and said I agreed to the proposal. [end recording]

Yeltsin Addresses Ulyanovsk Aviation Complex

LD1001154992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1235 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Report on address by Russian President Boris Yeltsin at the Ulyanovsk aviation industry complex on 9 January, by correspondent Nina Rogulina]

[Text] [Rogulina] The Ruslan heavy transport planes are known all over the world and it is not for nothing that at one of the air shows foreign journalists called the planes working ants. Ruslan's potential is unique: it has a freight-carrying capacity of 150 tonnes and a flight range of over 16,000 km. The creation of the Tu-204 passenger liner has become a new major task for the Ulyanovsk aircraft builders. It will also appear on the country's air routes soon. There is one more new product—flying equipment of the 21st century—which I would like to mention. The creation of thermoplanes [termoplan] has begun here; their potential is unique in carrying out tens of kinds of work in areas of the environment which are difficult of access. In the past few years the complex has started up; in order for it to start up properly the president had to examine some 30 different questions. By the way, 26 were resolved on the spot and the main one concerned the transformation of the complex into the Aviastart joint-stock company.

Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin not only held a conference here with members of the government, leading officials of various ministries, and departments, but in the course of two hours he also met with thousands of aircraft builders at their working stations and held a frank coversation with them. At the present time when the Union has broken up, all ties have been disrupted. Giant enterprises such as the Ulyanovsk aviation industry complex are having an especially difficult time of it: It is linked with thousands of projects of the former Union.

Addressing the rally, Boris Nikolayevich said in particular:

[Begin recording] [Yeltsin] Today I see for the first time that for all intents and purposes these are no worse, and as far as many qualities are concerned, especially regarding gas, fuel, etc., these are better aircraft. The 204, 96, and 124 are aircraft which are needed, badly needed by us today—by Russia. Therefore, give us the aircraft, I will help you.

First, I have signed a decree on the complex as a whole. This is the only decree for a specific enterprise. But we probably did not take into account everything there and today we will discuss things with the leadership both of the oblast and of the enterprise, and probably we will examine questions of the constructon of housing and other social problems. I will try to help. But I ask you.... [interrupted by applause] Thank you! But I ask you to truly regard yourselves workers of a unique enterprise. Indeed, Russia needs you so much that without you we will be lost.

Of course, you have a lot of criticism directed at Russia's president: prices, etc, etc. But understand that this is a necessary step without which we cannot manage. This faint-heartedness in the course of seven years made us put off this step. Each leader was afraid that he would lose his rating, that he would lose his popularity. Well, taking into account that all countries of the world which switched to a market economy could not do without this, without free prices, we took this measure, we took this forced—temporary, of course—measure, temporary, without being afraid of losing popularity.

Nevertheless, no matter how much I walked around today, no rotten tomatoes or bad eggs were thrown at me. This means that at least some people support this policy of reforms. [applause] I ask your patience for six to eight months. I ask you: support the president. The president will support you. We are all together. We shall resolve the problem this year—and not in the radiant communist future. Russia has become free. Russia has become a member of the UN. Russia now is one of the five members of the UN Security Council. The path ahead of us has now been cleared of mines and opened up and all that remains for all of us to do is to build this life the way we want to. [applause]

Today I will sign the permission for four of these machines to be sold abroad, so that you have hard currency; I sign, you sell. [exclamations of approval, applause] I must say that many people believe that the transition to free prices is a mistake. You know, it is not just a price hike—it is one of the measures of economic reform, one of the measures. Privatization is under way and it is true that this is going badly here. It has to be stated bluntly that the oblast leadership must come in for some criticism here.

Currently, the Moscow sausage and meat prices are half the price of yours. But it has always been the other way round. This means that you are a bit late. Your speed is a little bit on the slow side; well, I do not of course mean you, but the leadership. You have always stood out by your intellect, your politicization. It is said that the most politicized working people are to be found in the Ulyanovsk complex.

Too many problems from the former Union have piled up on our heads. They even say that agreement for the lettering on your aircraft, where it says USSR 99 9 214, must without fail be obtained from Moscow. Get rid of all of this nonsense. Write Russia and then the number. But now you just sit and wait, saying that the standard must be confirmed. Electronics is another matter...

[Unidentified person from the audience, interrupting] You should be afraid of it.

[Yeltsin] Mikhaylov, there is fear, and I must agree, exactly. [laughter from audience] Mikhaylov is afraid. He is such a cautious guy, although he is highly qualified and, in general, very practical. For my part I regard him with respect.

What is my impression of Ulyanovsk Oblast? In the first place, in those oblasts and towns which I have not visited at all or not for a long time, like this one here where I have not been since 1985. Second, to get a feeling of how people regard the reforms we have announced. [previous two sentences as heard] Yesterday in Saratov I found that in general people regard these with understanding. I feel from your mood that your attitude is more or less the same. This is our last chance. We have no other chance. The whole world is saying this.

We have invited the 13 most important specialists, economists, bankers, and financial experts from all over the world. We have signed a year's contract for them to sit down next to us and look at what stupid things we are signing. If these things are stupid they should quietly tell us that this is not right, so that we can change our decrees or decisions in time.

Of course, it is difficult. I would ask you simply, if we support each other at this time, if I support you and you support the president, then we shall, this year, without fail overcome this period which is the most difficult in the history of Russia since the Great Patriotic War, the most difficult: We shall overcome it without fail.

I thank you for your work. I wish you all the best. [end recording]

Yeltsin Comments on New Ulyanovsk Appointment

PM1301131392 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1900 GMT 9 Jan 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast: Report by A. Gerasimov, Yu. Kulikov, and V. Mikoshi]

[Text] [Gerasimov] The past two days that Boris Yeltsin has spent in the Volga region have been full of revelations and surprises. Present-day prices can probably be categorized as a revelation to the Russian president. His reaction to the 100-ruble boiled sausage was one of anger and rejection. It's some kind of mistake, Yeltsin stated, and ordered the abolition of the oblast trading system. Stores should be privately owned and independent, he stated.

This visit by the Russian president in no way resembles the visit he paid to the city seven years ago, when he was head of a CPSU Central Committee department. At least, conversations with the inhabitants of Ulyanovsk Oblast this time were tougher and more specific, and the important guest was no longer preaching to people about how they should live. Support the president and the president will support you, Boris Nikolayevich repeatedly told people today.

The relatively peaceful reception he received in both Saratov and Ulyanovsk was a complete surprise to him. He considers that free prices could give rise to the most unpredictable consequences.

The Russian leader appeared to finally succeed in winning the Ulyanovsk population over to his side by confirming Yuriy Goryachev, who is popular in the city, as head of administration.

[Begin Yeltsin recording] Hands up those who support Goryachev. [numerous people in crowd raise their hands] I will sign the decree today. [end recording]

[Gerasimov] Speaking from the scaffolding around the same Tu-204, the issue of the Black Sea Fleet was resolved.

[Begin Yeltsin recording] The day before yesterday I met Admiral Chernavin and asked him: Are your ship commanders obeying your orders? He said: Yes. Tell them all that they all have the protection of the president of Russia. No oath is to be sworn to the Ukraine. The Black Sea Fleet was, is, and will be Russian. [end recording]

According to tradition, the important guest should help his hosts. Today in that capacity the president of Russia resolved the issue of the foreign economic activity of the Ulyanovsk aviation industry complex. The plant is engaged in series production of the world's biggest aircraft, the An-124 or "Ruslan", which costs $120 million on the world market. Four aircraft, the number permitted for foreign sale by the president, will probably make it possible to solve all the economic and social problems of not only the plant but, indeed, of the whole of Ulyanovsk.

It cannot be said that there is unanimous support for Boris Nikolayevich in the town. Leaders of parties opposed to the oblast soviet mounted a silent protest today. Meanwhile, having enlisted the support of leaders of the clergy and the city authorities, the president flew out to Nizhniy Novgorod in the evening.

Further on Khasbulatov's Visit to Ryazan

Holds News Conference

LD1201211192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Report by correspondent Nikolay Artemev on Russian Supreme Soviet Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov's visit to Ryazan oblast]

[Excerpts] The Russian parliament's leader on his first day on Ryazan soil visited the Avangard collective farm, where he met the heads of the rayon's farms and farmers on the most acute problems in the countryside, including the fantastic prices for agricultural machinery set by monopoly holding manufacturers, the bureaucratic obstacles which farmers encounter everywhere, and many other things. Ruslan Khasbulatov called this meeting useful and said that the questions asked will supplement the large amount of information on the basis of which economic policy will be drawn up. The necessary amendments will be made to documents and laws already adopted. [passage omitted]

Ruslan Khasbulatov told officers, in particular:

[Begin Khasbulatov recording] The Supreme Soviet will do its best, we will implement everything to protect political and civil rights. We just met here with heads of rayons and deputies, and we raised issues regarding the fact that both the Supreme Soviet and the Russian Government are not working actively enough in the field of housing and material provision, well, of the whole complex of issues connected with a real concern for our servicemen and veterans, retired servicemen. I must be direct and say that it is largely true. We will increase our efforts to ensure that every officer who resigns or who serves in a specific garrison or in a specific town or settlement has accommodation and has a future, an organized future. I would like to assure you that we will do our best to make you feel like truly glorious representatives who perform an exceptionally honorable duty and an honorable service in our Russian society. [end recording]

Ruslan Khasbulatov met with chairmen of rayon and town soviets in Ryazan. He held a large conference with representatives of oblast and town soviets of Russia's central region in which representatives from Vladimir, Tula, Orla, Kaluga, Yaroslavl, Smolensk, Kostroma, and a number of other towns participated. The sides exchanged opinions on specific economic reform problems and planned the direction of their practical work. Ruslan Khasbulatov held a news conference at the local House of Soviets prior to his departure from Ryazan during which he summarized the results of his working trip. Assessing the general situation in Russia, he said:

[Begin Khasbulatov recording] I hope that, on the whole, we, at any rate, will manage to stabilize the situation and improve the situation in which people live. However, I was, of course, alarmed, having heard from various people yesterday and today this expression: Silence before a storm. I briefly observed it myself, as it were. People are silent. [passage omitted]

You know our people do not want much. They need a little bit of support. We cannot reduce it all to such a level. It is unthinkable. One simply feels ashamed, of course. This six months will be very decisive. As for this period of six months, it looks like January and February will decide it all. Why? Because all this mechanism must be adjusted during this period, some genuinely market instruments must come into operation. What we have introduced so far has, naturally, nothing to do with market. It is more likely that we are creating some general preconditions to set all our economy in motion this way or another. After all, the problem lies in...[changes thought] Where does the problem lie? A total of 75 percent of our economy has nothing to do with developing and expanding the consumer sector. It is like a rock. Those reforms we are talking about, it is like a light breeze blowing on this rock. When this rock—75 percent of our economy is not moving—is set in motion, then, well, so to speak, this economy will gain commodity nature, it will start moving, having structural changes, and making headway in expanding that part of economy which is connected with and provides services for people so in other words in expanding consumer sector. That is why structural reforms are needed. After all, this privatization is also needed from the point of view of implementing structural reforms. I am very frightened—and I talked to Gaydar about it a number of times—that there is some misunderstanding here, so other resolute structural changes are needed. [end recording]

Ruslan Khasbulatov concluded his news conference by wishing all of us—Russian citizens—more optimism at this difficult time, despite everything. In a nutshell, this is what happened during the Russian parliament leader's working visit to Ryazan oblast.

Prices 'Absolutely Unconsoling'

LD1101205792 Moscow TASS in English 1445 GMT 11 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondents Nikolay Zheleznov and Anatoliy Kakovkin]

[Text] Ryazan January 11 TASS—Russian Federation parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov described the results of the first week of free prices in Russia as "absolutely unconsoling". He wound up his two-week working tour of the Ryazan region today.

Khasbulatov today met heads of the Soviets of People's Deputies in the central region and proposed to all participants in the meeting to share their impressions about the situation formed in their areas in conjunction with the price liberalization.

Judging by the deputies' accounts, most of the people do not accept free prices, do not look at them as real, market prices, but consider the increases have been (?prompted) by far from objective circumstances, Khasbulatov said.

All should realize now that the present innovations are only pre-conditions for a market economy. This is why today's difficulties need to be regarded as natural although temporary, he stressed.

Khasbulatov is convinced that both the Russian Supreme Soviet and the republican government should make urgent adjustments in the mechanism of truly market price formation. He thinks cheaper food products will arrive in cities only one way—together with acceptable prices for machinery, equipment and raw materials for the countryside. Until this happens, the suppliers of farm produce will not free prices.

Khasbulatov departed to Moscow on Saturday [11 January] afternoon.

Government Called 'Main Lawbreaker'

LD1101053592 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2200 GMT 10 Jan 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Khasbulatov, head of the Russian parliament, has been on the move today. He visited farms in Ryazan Oblast. The talk was not just of reforms in the countryside. Khasbulatov said that in various spheres many things are going wrong for a single reason: Laws are not being carried out and unfortunately the main lawbreaker is the Russian Government itself. Khasbulatov said the parliament will take a tougher line vis-a-vis the government, especially in taxation matters.

Chechen Takes Step To Set Up Armed Forces

OW1201164992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1445 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A decree signed by president Dzhokar Dudayev has been announced in Groznyy establishing the order of registration of young men born in 1975 at enlistment offices. The registration is to be carried out within the next three months.

Independent experts view the decree by general Dudayev as the first official step taken by the Chechen Republic to set up its own armed forces.

Dudayev Offers Gamsakhurdia Political Asylum

LD1001183892 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 1700 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Dzhokhar Dudayev has told TASS that Zviad Gamsakhurdia has not asked for political asylum in the Chechen republic, but he has been briefed by Gamsakhurdia spokesmen on the current situation in Georgia. Dudayev added that if Gamsakhurdia wants it, "we will grant him asylum".

The president of the Chechen republic is convinced that Zviad Gamsakhurdia has no need to seek asylum anywhere. He should, rather, return to his people as soon as possible, and restore law and order in his homeland. Dzhokhar Dudayev promised to help him in any way he can to achieve this. In particular, Chechenya has stopped all deliveries to Georgia, including petroleum products.

Dudayev Interviewed on Future, Gamsakhurdia

PM1301100992 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 11 Jan 92 p 1

[Telephone interview with Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev by S. Bartnikas; date and place not given: "Evening Telephone Call to Dudayev"—first paragraph is introduction]

[Text] I dialed the president's telephone number...

[Bartnikas] Your republic has started producing assault rifles—the first batch has been delivered to you. Your national Olympic committee has put in an appearance. The list of news goes on and on. How else will the Chechen republic surprise the world in the near future?

[Dudayev] Needless to say, a great deal remains secret. But I can say that by mid-January the world will see the president's team.

[Bartnikas] Are you going abroad?

[Dudayev] That is not what I am saying. The world will see the president's team and will realize that it is capable of a great deal. We want to show what we are like, so we have now recruited many well-known scientists, both ours and from other republics, to work on a reform program.

[Bartnikas] Dzhokhar Musayevich, evidently a quite definite fate awaits politicians nowadays. If not Siberia, then exile at any rate. Like Gamsakhurdia, for instance...

[Dudayev] I think that this is the legacy of the past. That fate has already befallen Gorbachev and is evidently in store for Yeltsin too. I am not afraid of that. I am not power-mad and do not get anything apart from moral satisfaction from it. I think that as soon as a politician senses that those around him are starting to do without him, he must immediately withdraw...

[Bartnikas] And Gamsakhurdia did not sense that in time?

[Dudayev] He is Georgia's legitimate president, chosen by the Georgian people. I cannot understand it when people try to forcibly remove him from power without asking the Georgian people's opinion.

Georgia and its president gave us help at difficult times, and if something happens, I will say to him "Welcome!"

[Bartnikas] Did you never wish to find out what the future holds for you from fortune tellers and soothsayers?

[Dudayev] Many people of that ilk come up to me, but I smile at them and send them packing.

[Bartnikas] Have you not even looked at your horoscope to find out what awaits you in the year of the monkey?

[Dudayev] No. I have no interest at all in that. Because I cannot even find out in what month I was born.

[Bartnikas] Pardon?

[Dudayev] All the documents have been lost. My relatives were shot and scattered around the world. I do not know whether I was born 15 May or 15 April 1944...

Chechen Supreme Soviet Abolishes Trade Unions

PM1001103792 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Report from IZVESTIYA, TASS, RIA, ANI, and POSTFACTUM roundup]

[Text] A Chechen Republic Supreme Soviet resolution on the trade unions has been published. Under this resolution trade unions' leading organs are abolished and their activities suspended.

The reason for the dissolution of the trade unions was their "antipeople position" during the "Chechen revolution." A special commission has been set up to monitor the safekeeping of the trade unions' material stocks and financial reserves.

Local Prices May Cause 'More Social Unrest'

LD1301084592 Moscow TASS in English 0759 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] Moscow January 13 TASS—Spiralling prices in Russia could cause more social unrest, experts believe.

On average food prices grew by 182 per cent in December and are expected to double in January, according to the St. Petersburg centre for consumer market research. A resident of St. Petersburg now should spend at least 1,200-1,600 roubles on food, it said.

In the northern Russian city of Vorkuta miners at the Yur-Shor pit downed their tools, demanding wage hikes to combat spiralling prices. In the region of Karelia, police reported a rise in pogroms of private stores that are likely to continue as goods and food become more expensive.

Local radio in Ulyanovsk today blasted the Russian Government resolution on market-based prices, saying it forced producers to increase prices. In the near future food prices will rise because farmers now have to pay 8 times more for electricity and 10 times more for gas, it said.

In Vladimir, chief of local administration Yuriy Vlasov issued a statement, accusing several farms of supplying meat and milk at "arbitrary prices". Authorities now plan to expand the list of goods subsidised by the state in order to keep prices in check. Local authorities will need 120 million roubles for subsidies on milk, 21 million on sugar and 19 million for bread. Subsidies will amount to a fifth of the budget for the first quarter of this year.

In the city of Kirov, authorities have decided to set up a special fund to help low-income families. They have already allocated four million roubles for soup-kitchens and other aid for the needy.

In Tataria, shop shelves will remain empty until the second half of the year, local economists believe. Local enterprises have been able to sign contracts with plants in other parts of Russia for just 25 per cent of their capacity. Most deals are on a barter basis. Tataria signed direct agreements with Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Tajikistan and Kazakhstan, but they are often violated, economists say. In an effort to improve the situation the Kazan City Executive Committee will begin privatising trade ventures starting from January 15.

In the Kuzbass coal basin, miners from the city of Osinniki have decided to swap 300,000 tonnes of coal for food and medicines. 50,000 will be swapped for grain.

"We have again fallen hostage not so much to reforms as to a clumsy implementation of reforms," the PRAVDA BURYATII newspaper writes today. There was no sense in freeing prices prior to the privatization of trade ventures, it said.

Luzhkov Forming New Moscow Government

LD1201140192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1200 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] According to unconfirmed data from reliable sources, a new Moscow government now being formed by Luzhkov will not include several former members. Named among those who will be forced to quit the government are Voronin, Ordzhonikidze, and Karnaukhov, the press service of the Democratic Russia Fund reports.

Ethnic Germans Rally for 'Historical Justice'

LD1101210192 Moscow TASS in English 1515 GMT 11 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Sergey Postanogov]

[Text] Moscow January 11 TASS—Russian Germans rallied outside the building of the government here today. They demanded that historical justice be restored and lands which belonged to Russian Germans for over two centuries be returned to them.

Vladimir Daines, chairman of the Moscow Society of Germans Vozrozhdeniye (Revival), noted that Russian Germans would carry on the struggle for their rights. "We want to live in peace and friendship with the peoples residing in the Volga region," he said.

An appeal by Heinrich Grout, chairman of the inter-state council for the rehabilitation of Germans, to the progressive public of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the world was readout at the rally. Grout calls for moral, political and other support to Russian Germans, including aid in the organized exit from the former Soviet Union and Russia.

Participants in the rally adopted an appeal to Russian President Boris Yeltsin to find "a fairer approach to the solution of the problems of Russian Germans."

May File With Constitutional Court

OW1101200092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1633 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Saturday [11 January] the Moscow branch of the Russian Germans organization "Wiedergeburt" ("Revival") held an action of protest near the House of Soviets following the recent statements concerning the German autonomy made by the Russian president during his recent trip to the Saratov region.

In an address to Boris Yeltsin the Moscow branch of "Wiedergeburt" says the Russian Germans are "insulted by your statement on the question of setting up the Autonomous Republic of Russian Germans." The telegram of protest has also been sent to the German embassy in Moscow, as chairman of the "Wiedergeburt" Moscow branch Vladimir Daines told IF [INTERFAX].

He did not rule out the possibility that "Wiedergeburt" will file an inquiry to the Russian Constitutional Court concerning Yeltsin's statements' compliance with the law on rehabilitation of repressed peoples.

Sobchak Protests City Council's Decision

OW1001191692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1743 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In St. Petersburg another dispute is afoot between the Mayor's office and the City Council. Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak has protested the City Council's decision to cancel 36 of his instructions concerning the activity of the St. Petersburg administration for privatization. Sobchak says the City Council's decision is against the Russian leadership's policy of giving more powers to the executive bodies of government. The City Council's session rejected 36 instructions by the mayor running counter to Russia's legislation on local self-government. A legal inquiry has found 15 of Sobchak's instructions concerning privatization unlawful.

Independent St. Petersburg TV 'Welcomed'

LD1301102892 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Oleg Poptsov, chairman of the All-Russian State Radio and Television Company, has said that St. Petersburg television must become independent. In Poptsov's view, the creation of independent television companies is a normal process which should only be welcomed.

Kamchatka Naval Units Issue Appeal for Unity

LD1001124492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1050 GMT 10 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Sergey Borovkov]

[Text] Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy (Far East), 10 Jan (TASS)—Participants in the officers' forum of the Kamchatka Flotilla of the Pacific Fleet have expressed grave concern at ill-thought out actions that are undermining the Navy's unity and combat readiness. They have adopted an appeal to the presidents of the republics that make up the Commonwealth, Russian President Boris Yeltsin, and all forums of naval officers.

"'Privatization' of the fleet along national lines," says the appeal, "will do irreparable damage to its combat readiness." Dismembering the Navy will also have a negative effect on relations between servicemen of various nationalities and could cause serious complications in units. Under present conditions when the naval forces of the United States, its NATO allies, and Japan are being renewed and strengthened, the officers of the flotilla believe such an approach would be disastrous both for the Commonwealth and for dealing with defensive tasks.

"We request," stressed the document, "that every possible measure be taken to save the naval fleet and to preserve a moral and combat potential that has been built over 300 years. If not, history will not forgive our irreversible mistake."

The issue of the unity of the former USSR Navy has taken on particular urgency since the Ukraine laid claim to the Black Sea Fleet.

Chelyabinsk's 'Great Russia' Protests Prices

LD1201145992 Moscow TASS in English 1441 GMT 12 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Tkachenko]

[Text] Chelyabinsk January 12 TASS—An absolute majority of Chelyabinsk people, who cast their votes for Russia's President Boris Yeltsin, remain loyal to his government and reforms during the present difficult times.

There were slightly more than 100 people in a column of demonstrators who responded to a call by a bloc of "Great Russia" organisations to hold the so-called hunger procession and a meeting against the liberalisation of prices and the actions of the Russian Government.

Speakers at the meeting that took place outside the city council building mainly set out the political platforms of the meeting organisers.

Vitaliy Knyaginichev, chairman of the "Great Russia" organisation, expressed discontent over the actions of the leadership of the city, accusing them of lack of attention to the needs of the broad sections of the population during a "Criminal price rise".

A resolution read out at the meeting accused the democrats of betrayal. The supporters of the "Great Russia" urged Yeltsin to hold early elections to the local councils of Chelyabinsk region not later than the spring of this year.

Several tens of people attended a meeting that was held on Komsomol Square in Chelyabinsk by representatives of the bloc of left-wing forces in protest at the sharp decline in people's living standards following the liberalisation of prices.

International Affairs

Fate of Black Sea Fleet Discussed in Kiev

Russian Delegation Arrives

OW1101190292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1633 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A military airplane which Saturday [11 January] morning left "Chkalovsky" military airport near Moscow carrying a representative Russian delegation and a group of high-ranking military experts has arrived in Kiev. The delegations came for talks on military and political matters with the Ukrainian leadership.

The representative Russian delegation formed by President Boris Yeltsin and Chairman of parliament Ruslan Khasbulatov is led by Vice-Premier Sergey Shakhray. Among others it includes Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev. The delegation is authorized to initial agreements if they are reached at the talks.

The group of military experts is headed by deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Commonwealth Armed Forces, Colonel-General Boris Pyankov. It also includes first deputy Commander of the Navy, Admiral Ivan Kapitanets.

Sources close to the Commonwealth Military Command say the talks in Kiev will focus on Ukraine's decision to have its own army and the fate of the Black Sea Fleet.

Conference Held

LD1101151292 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1300 GMT 11 Jan 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Announcer] The all-Ukrainian conference of military chiefs opened today.

[Correspondent Lyaskalo] The future of the Black Sea Fleet was at the center of attention at the all-Ukrainian conference of military chiefs. Ukrainian Defense Minister Colonel General Morozov said that it can now be felt that the former center is not giving up and is taking not only unilateral but also illegal steps. We do not consider as complete the work on the list of units that are part of the strategic forces, and yet we are accused of violating the Minsk agreement.

President Kravchuk condemned the desire of the High Command to transfer into the category of strategic weapons as much as possible of the Armed Forces stationed in Ukraine, including the whole of the Black Sea Fleet. In that case, he said, Ukraine will not be able to have any troops of its own, because according to the existing international agreements every region can have a strictly defined number of troops. And yet Marshal Shaposhnikov is now striving to take charge of the whole of that quota, so to speak. In wishing to have our own navy, we are not violating any of the Minsk agreements, Kravchuk claimed.

There was also a certain logic in the speech by Admiral Kasatonov, commander of the Black Sea Fleet. He called on the leaders of the states first to find a joint political solution and to take the view of the fleet as a single whole. It is impermissible to use an ethnic or any other criterion to break up combat teams and ships' crews. Neither should the fleet be deprived of its glorious historical traditions. At the same time, Admiral Kasatonov said that he is ready to help Ukraine create its own navy.

Part of Fleet To Go to Ukraine

LD1201004592 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2300 GMT 11 Jan 92

[By UKRINFORM-TASS correspondent Vitaliy Povadenko]

[Text] Kiev, 12 Jan (TASS)—The talks between the delegations of Ukraine and the Russian Federation on military and political issues, connected with implementing the agreements reached within the framework of the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States], ended late on the evening of 11 January with the signing of a joint communique. The delegations were headed by: Viktor Antonov, Ukrainian minister of state for matters on the defense complex and conversion, and Sergey Shakhray, state counsellor for legal policy and deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Government.

The talks, the communique notes, were held in accordance with the agreement on strategic forces between the participating states of the Commonwealth. According to this document, the sides have bound themselves immediately to enter into talks with a view to securing guarantees and elaborating a mechanism for implementing treaties in the field of international security, disarmament, and arms control. The sides confirmed their readiness to take concrete measures in the very near future regarding the ratification of the Treaty on Cutting Strategic Offensive Weapons Between the USSR and the U.S. and the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe.

On the basis of the Agreement between the CIS member states on Strategic Forces and the Agreement on Armed Forces and Border Troops, the sides acknowledge, the document says, that the Armed Forces which are deployed in Ukraine comprise a grouping of the CIS strategic forces—not counting a section of the Black Sea Fleet forces, which will form part of the Ukrainian armed forces—and also [comprise] Ukrainian armed forces, including an agreed grouping of forces which is subject to reduction, disbandment, or withdrawal by mutual agreement, including those covered by the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe and subject to international verification. The sides agreed to continue, within a week, the work on the level of experts to discuss and prepare proposals on military political issues.

The sides, to complete the work of experts, the communique stresses, will refrain from any unilateral actions on issues which are being examined. An accord was reached to settle all disputed issues by means of negotiations.

The same day, the state delegation of the Russian Federation left for Moscow.

Fleet Called 'Indivisible'

LD1101110392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0400 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] The problem of the nationalization of the armed forces by individual republics remains the focus of the news media. Admiral of the Black Sea Fleet Kasatonov gave a news conference in Sevastopol yesterday. Here is our correspondent Irina Kotvalyuk:

[Kotvalyuk] Igor Vladimirovich considered it necessary to clarify many matters regarding the Black Sea Fleet. It is strange that attempts are being made to divide the Black Sea Fleet into strategic and nonstrategic parts. It is difficult to agree with this, Admiral Kasatonov said, because all the components of the Black Sea Fleet are carriers of nuclear weapons and it is illegitimate to divide them into strategic and nonstrategic parts.

Journalists asked about the oath, about statehood, and the flag that Black Sea Fleet ships are to fly. As regards the economic pressure being put on servicemen of the Black Sea Fleet by the Ukraine, that is a matter that also interests everyone of course. The point is that in Sevastopol coupons have been brought in from today, although many servicemen of the Black Sea Fleet have not received them yet. But one thing is certain. The Black Sea Fleet has now received its money for January not just from the Ukraine but also from Russia. This is an unprecedented situation for the Fleet.

There were many questions. Kasatonov was asked whether he had not changed his mind after yesterday's big conference in Kiev chaired by President Kravchuk. No, Admiral Kasatonov's position had remained inflexible. The Black Sea Fleet cannot belong to any republic individually. The Black Sea Fleet is indivisible.

And here is the chief conclusion drawn at the news conference for all of us. Admiral Kasatonov stressed that servicemen must not be subject to the pressure of unresolved political issues. A transitional period is required and a gradual resolution of the issue of the privatization [as heard] of the Black Sea Fleet is needed.

Republican Party Comments

LD1301004592 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1640 GMT 12 Jan 92

[From the "Politics" section]

[Text] Ukraine owns 30.2 percent of the Soviet Navy's property, says the Ukrainian Republican Party's (URP) statement on division of the Soviet Black Sea Fleet. Mariya Oleynik, chairman of the Donetsk regional URP organization, has told a PF [POSTFACTUM] correspondent that the statement of the URP politbureau states that everything that has been amassed jointly by former Soviet republics, including the USSR Navy, should be divided between them. According to the authors of the statement, Ukraine's share in the property of the Soviet Union amounts on average to 30.2 percent. The figure has been obtained by calculating the average of the following data: Ukraine's population makes up 18 percent of the total population of the former Soviet Union, but its share in the production of the 9 main commodities is 26.2 percent. Its share in coal mining and in cast-iron and steel production is 36.2 percent. Thus, the statement says, it turns out that Ukraine owns 30.2 percent of all the Black Sea Fleet's battleships and on-shore facilities, as well as of its other property. Authors of the statement believe that compensation measures should be applied or an appropriate redislocation of the ships should be made if it turns out that the Black Sea Fleet happens to own a few more or less ships than 30.2 percent of the total number of the Soviet Navy battleships.

The denial of Ukraine's rights for the Black Sea Fleet by Russia's and other ex-Soviet republics' politicians is an attempt of Russian imperialist elements to restrict the sovereignty of the Republic, which has been subject to colonial exploitation when in the Soviet Union, and to rob it once again.

Air Force Units Reportedly Ready To Leave

LD1001155892 Moscow TASS in English 1459 GMT 10 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Roman Zadunaiskiy]

[Text] Moscow January 10 TASS—"Unsanctioned transfer to Russian airfields of military aircraft, deployed on the territory of Ukraine, is not ruled out," chairman of the coordination committee of the independent association of officers of the Ukraine, Lieutenant-Colonel Sergey Starykh told TASS.

"In any case," he noted, "this plan is being hatched by military fliers. They disagree with the Ukrainian leadership's military policy, have psychological pressure put on them to swear allegience to Ukraine when the national feelings of servicemen are ignored. Almost 50 per cent of the personnel in seven Air Force units have already refused to take an oath of allegience to Ukraine."

"Officers are incensed," Starykh stressed, "that the Ukrainian leadership violates the decree of the Presidium of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, issued on November 14, 1991, which contains provisional regulations pertaining to the oath-taking procedure. Article 3 of the regulations says: "All categories of servicemen are to take the oath only after studying the main provisions of the Ukrainian military legislation, military regulations, their rights and duties". But servicemen are now made to take the oath without the main package of documents. [quotation marks as received]

The Ukrainian Government and the republican mass media ignore our proposals to set up a special centre to aid officers, wishing to continue their term of service elsewhere," Starykh said. Ignored also is the committee's proposal to announce a transitional period in the republic for servicemen in order to guarantee their working conditions and social protection.

Kravchuk on Improving Relations With Russia

LD1301024692 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2200 GMT 12 Jan 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Sticking to the hard line, President Kravchuk has formulated two conditions for improving relations with Russia in his television address.

[Begin Kravchuk recording] I want us to have brotherly, friendly relations. But those relations can only be achieved under one condition, actually two conditions. First, we should treat each other as equals and no side should attempt to appropriate the wealth which was produced jointly. And if these conditions are met, we shall create a firm, normal Commonwealth of Independent States. If we forget about this, if we allow ourselves to make rush judgments to interfere—it does not matter anymore whether it comes from St. Petersburg or Moscow—this might bring about a protest. Not from Kravchuk, but from the people who live in the Ukraine. [end recording]

Talking about interference and rush statements, President Kravchuk obviously meant the territorial question raised last summer by the Russian White House, and recently, by St. Peterburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak. As one can see, the Slavic core of the Commonwealth has its own difficulties.

Russian Statements 'Imperial'

PM1201203092 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Jan 92 p 1

[Untitled report from PRAVDA-TASS column]

[Text] Boris Yeltsin, Ruslan Khasbulatov, Anatoliy Sobchak, and other Russian statesmen should get out of the habit of thinking in imperial terms, Ukrainian President L. Kravchuk stated in an interview for a correspondent of the CSTK agendy, commenting on recent statements by Russian spokesmen about Ukraine. The Soviet Union existed for 70 years, and all the assets that were created are the result of the labor of all the peoples, Kravchuk stressed. Therefore it is not possible for one republic to state that it is the legal successor to the Union and that it owns everything.

Russian Interests Said 'Diametrically Opposite'

LD1301094692 Moscow TASS in English 0910 GMT 13 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Valentin Vasilets]

[Text] Ottawa January 13 TASS—Ukrainian Parliament member Stepan Khmara said here that Ukraine's membership in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) is temporary. Meeting representatives of the Ukrainian community in Montreal, he said Ukraine's goal was to become a genuinely independent state.

"The interests of each republic are different, while the interests of Ukraine and Russia are diametrically opposite," Khmara said. He illustrated this assertion by the Black Sea Fleet dispute. "Russia wants to maintain its domination over the armed forces and to impose it in the long-run on other republics," Khmara said. According to the MP, Ukraine would not give in even if the conflict assumed violent forms. "It would be a catastrophe for Russia to embark upon the road of aggression," he said. "There are many Ukrainians on Soviet land. They are all patriots and they will not put up with any Russian aggressive actions against Ukraine."

Government To Send Representatives to CSCE

LD1001162392 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1124 GMT 10 Jan 92

[From the "Military News" section]

[Text]—Confidential sources report that the Ukraine plans to send its representatives to participate in the next round of conventional arms negotiations in Vienna. The negotiations will be resumed on January 13, following a scheduled break. The Ukraine is not currently a CSCE member.

President Kravchuk Meets With Kissinger

LD1001195292 Moscow TASS in English 1710 GMT 10 Jan 91

[By UKRINFORM correspondent Aleksey Trotsenko—TASS]

[Text] Kiev January 10 TASS—Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger arrived to Ukraine to acquaint himself with the developments in the Republic and the Commonwealth of Independent States. He discussed "questions of mutual interest" on Friday [10 January] with Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk at a 90 minute one-to-one meeting.

Kissinger will also meet Ukrainian Foreign and Defence Ministry officials.

National Affairs

Withdrawal of Tactical Nuclear Weapons Begins

LD1001124392 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1057 GMT 10 Jan 92

[By UKRINFORM-TASS correspondent Nikolay Zayka]

[Text] Kiev, 10 January (TASS)—The removal of tactical nuclear weapons from operational status has begun in the Ukraine.

In a missile unit of the Kiev Military District, the UKRINFORM- TASS correspondent was only shown the loading of warheads onto vehicles for their further transportation by rail. Warheads with nuclear charges are kept separately from carriers, in special depots, the unit commander explained. Access there is strictly limited.

A column of heavy vehicles and armored personnel carriers is lined up in a wooded glade, far from settlements and roads. Armed troops are cordoning off the glade deep in the forest. With the exception of the servicemen who are busy loading warheads, no one is allowed to approach the column.

The warhead is up to two meters long and its diameter is about 70 cm. Its total weight is approximately 300 kg. The nuclear charge itself occupies only the nose cone section. It is capable of instantaneously destroying or putting out of action unprotected personnel up to battalion strength and equipment standing in the open at a distance of 70-300 km, depending on the means of delivery.

These explanations were given by Colonel Gomar, head of the combat training department of missile troops and artillery of the Kiev military district, who was present on the scene.

When being loaded into the truck, the warhead is lowered smoothly into a special container which is hermetically sealed, and a canopy is placed over the back of the truck. The strongly guarded convoy moves off toward a secret railroad halt, where a special secret train awaits it.

The colonel said: "The warheads will be taken onward by rail under guard. Beyond the borders of the republic, monitored by representatives of Russia, Ukraine, and foreign states, the warheads will be dismantled and the nuclear charges destroyed. As has been stated by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, by 1 July we will not have any tactical nuclear weapons and by 1994 we will not have any strategic nuclear weapons, either."

Pavlychko on Armed Forces, Nuclear Weapons

AU1301133992 Vienna KURIER in German 13 Jan 92 p 5

[Interview with Dmytro Pavlychko, chairman of the Ukrainian Foreign Policy Council, by Hans-Henning Scharsach; place and date not given: "The Army Must Disappear With the Empire"]

[Text] [Scharsach] By taking over the command of the former Soviet Armed Forces in the Ukraine early on, your government presented a fait accomplis. Some members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) have reacted with annoyance. How can the differences of opinion be resolved?

[Pavlychko] There are, of course, many people who do not like the idea of the disintegration of the Army. The forces of yesterday want us to return to the old system. The Army was both the pride and the downfall of the Soviet Union. It was the darling of the totalitarian system. Preserving it would be a constant challenge to the new republics, to the self-determination of the peoples, and to democracy. This danger can only be eliminated if the Army disappears with the Empire.

[Scharsach] The West was shocked at reports that the Ukraine is planning to have 400,000 men under arms. How large will the Army ultimately be?

[Pavlychko] That depends on the external circumstances. The more secure the environment, and the more firmly it is bound into international structures, the smaller the Army can be. We are currently proceeding on the assumption that we will have 90,000 professional soldiers.

[Scharsach] Some people in the Ukraine would like to see the Republic keeping its nuclear weapons to improve its position toward the West, counteract Russian hegemonic aspirations, and prevent its neighbors from making historically based territorial claims.

[Pavlychko] Believe me, regarding this issue the final statement has really been made. The Ukraine will renounce all nuclear weapons. The Chernobyl heritage is a heavy burden for us, and we know what risks are involved in the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The political control exerted by us solely serves the goal of ruling out, with absolute certainty, the use of nuclear weapons during the transition period.

[Scharsach] Scrapping is expensive and requires progressive technology.

[Pavlychko] The United States has promised that, to begin with, it will make available $400 million to the republics of the former Soviet Union to facilitate the quick destruction of the nuclear weapons. If in addition we are helped with experts and technical know-how, the nuclear weapons disposal can be completed by the end of 1994.

[Scharsach] Would the Soviet nuclear weapons also be safely under control if revolts because of hunger were to lead to political changes in the winter?

[Pavlychko] Of course, I am aware that certain forces are hoping for such a crisis. However, we can rule that out for the Ukraine. We have an about 50 percent share in the former Soviet Union's agricultural production. No one in our republic will go hungry.

[Scharsach] But you depend on Russia for crude oil.

[Pavlychko] Even though Russia will probably only be able to supply 40 percent of the quantity it supplied in the past, we will continue to supply foodstuffs to the full extent. The West must not get the wrong idea of our country. Agricultural production is not our only source of wealth. Being the largest steel producer of the former Soviet Union, we have also ensured our foreign exchange earnings, which we do not have to transfer to Moscow as we had to in the past. It is true, we need help for the required economic changes, but we are a reliable partner. We want to do business with all countries. However, we are not asking for alms.

[Scharsach] What will be your country's reaction to the territorial claims announced by some of your neighbors?

[Pavlychko] We do not make any territorial claims and we expect our neighbors not to make such claims, either. By the way, the results of the referendum show how much the people agree to an independent Ukraine. This also holds true for the Crimea, where the people surely do not want to join Russia.

Simferopol Garrison Soldiers Take Oath 12 Jan

LD1301115992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] (Vitaliy Aksimenko), chairman of the Information Service of the Ukrainian Republican Party, told an RIA correspondent that on 12 January, military units of the Simferopol Garrison took the oath to the national armed forces of Ukraine.

Elaborating upon that information, the duty officer of the Simferopol Garrison said over the telephone to the RIA correspondent that such an event really did take place, but not all the servicemen took part in it. Only recruits of Ukrainian nationality took the oath.

Kiev Citizens Protest 'Skyrocketing' Prices

LD1301094492 Kiev Radio Kiev in English 0100 GMT 13 Jan 92

[Text] The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine has adopted a resolution on additional measures for social protection of the population against the sharp price rise due to price liberalization. A new minimum wage was established at the level of 400 rubles a month, pensions have been doubled, and student stipends increased. At the same time, prices for certain sausage products, milk and dairy products have been lowered. It is noteworthy that the above products are hardly available in the majority of the shops despite the introduction of usable consumer coupons as of 10 January.

Meanwhile, the prices at the markets are skyrocketing. A multi-thousand meeting was held in Kiev, whose participants voiced protests against the price rise, which resulted in a sharp decline in people's living standards.

Cabinet Limits Some Prices

LD1001123692 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1145 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Kiev, 10 Jan (UKRINFORM-TASS)—The Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers has adopted a decision on additional measures to protect the population in connection with the liberalization of prices. In particular, the document envisages that animal oil [maslo zhivotnoye], sour cream [smetana], cheeses (with the exception of hard cheeses), and other dairy products are to be sold to the population in the first quarter of this year at a maximum rate of triple the state retail prices that were in effect in 1991.

Reusable Coupons Introduced as 2d Currency

LD1001113592 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1010 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Kiev, 10 January (UKRINFORM-TASS)—Re-useable coupons are being introduced on the territory of Ukraine today. Ukrainian specialists believe that this will be one of the main measures to protect the sovereign state's domestic market and will also compensate for the lack of cash, of which there is now too little to even pay wages.

Unlike previous coupons which are presented in shops along with the ruble, these, which are printed abroad and reliably protected from forgery, will essentially be a second currency. The rate is one coupon to the ruble. They will purchase foodstuffs and essential items in the industrial group. The ruble will be in circulation at the same time in the sphere of public services, commerce and at the markets. Most wages will also be paid in rubles for the moment. In time, however, as the number of coupons grows, they will become the effective basis for a Ukrainian currency.

The use of re-useable coupons, Ukrainian financial experts believe, will enable inflation to be brought down and will serve as an incentive to privatize trade and for producers to increase their output of goods.

Non-cash settlements will be made between the independent states for food supplies. Visitors to Ukraine may exchange a specific amount of money for coupons at the bank and on departure people will have the opportunity to exchange them for rubles.

Belarus

Council To Take Control of Military Units

OW1201160992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1445 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Saturday [11 January], after 2 days of debates, Belarussia's parliament adopted a resolution on the armed forces stationed in Belarus. From now on all military units stationed in Belarus, except those belonging to strategic forces, will be controlled by Belarussia's council of ministers. Their list will be compiled together with the commander-in-chief of the Commonwealth forces and confirmed by a corresponding agreement.

In connection with transforming the republic's ministry for defence affairs into defence ministry the parliament confirmed the powers of Cl. [Colonel]-General Anatoliy Kostenko, commander of the Belarussian military district, as the man in charge of all the armed forces deployed in Belarus. He will be responsible for the maintenance of the logistics base of Belarussia's armed forces.

As for the strategic forces deployed in Belarus, they'll be controlled by the strategic forces command of Commonwealth members.

The presidium of Belarus's parliament was instructed to form a commission comprising MPs [members of parliament] and government members led by the parliament's chairman Stanislav Shushkevich to conduct urgent talks with the heads of state of the Commonwealth countries on the ways to maintain and reorganize the Commonwealth's armed forces as well as ensure social protection for the servicemen and their families.

Troop Reductions Planned

LD1301125192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1000 GMT 13 Jan 92

[From the "Television News Service" program]

[Excerpts] One of the most recent decisions to be made by the Supreme Soviet of Belarus was to create the Ministry of Defense. The text of the oath which the troops stationed on the territory of Belarus will be taking was also adopted.

[Begin Guretskiy recording] Despite all this, the Belarussians tend to avoid any haste in setting up their own army. The process of army organization will be implemented in two phases. This decision is explained by the Belarussian character itself, and by the difficult situation in which they find themselves today, when the Chernobyl disaster has left more traces on the republic's land than any war. Last autumn, during the call-up, five out of each 10 youths, that is every other one, was not recruited to the army because of ill health.

Therefore, the republic is to start a considerable troop reduction. Already this year, according to Lieutenant-General Petr Chaus, defense minister of Belarus, 30 percent of funds allocated for the purchase of military equipment and weapons is to be switched to welfare programs, and specifically, to the building of housing. [passage omitted [end recording]

Parliament Appeals to CIS Over Armed Forces

LD1101190592 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1822 GMT 11 Jan 92

[By BELTA correspondent Vladimir Glod]

[Text] Minsk, 11 Jan (TASS)—The Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus expresses profound concern that the process of settling questions relating to the future of the armed forces of the former USSR has taken an unconstructive, dangerous turn of late, and has begun to deviate from the framework of the agreements between the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] member states on this problem. This is stated in an appeal from the Belarus parliament to CIS leaders. This development of events could lead to extremely undesirable consequences. It threatens to turn into a trial of strength between individual states, the document notes.

"In this connection," the appeal says, "the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus declares:

One. There is no alternative to the negotiating process as far as the future of the armed forces of the former USSR is concerned. Negotiations should be held in strict accordance with the relevant agreements between the heads of state of the CIS members.

Two. Respecting the rights of the member states of the CIS to an independent military policy, and confirming its aspiration to create an independent, neutral and nuclear-free state, the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus urges states belonging to the CIS to immediately begin talks on the fate of the armed forces of the former USSR.

Three. The Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus urges the supreme soviets of Russia and Ukraine, and also the leaders of those states, to refrain for the duration of the talks from any unilateral actions capable of destabilizing the situation.

Four. In the event of this negotiating process being derailed through the fault of other interested parties, the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus reserves the right unilaterally to make decisions on implementing the military policy of the Republic of Belarus."

Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus Stanislav Shushkevich has been instructed to immediately bring the text of this statement to the attention of the leaders of the member states of the Commonwealth and the supreme bodies of state power of the countries of the CIS.

Russia 'Threatens' Security

LD1201184392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] The People's Front of Belarus is alarmed by Russia's intentions to subordinate all military contingents of the former Soviet Army to itself. A statement by the organization points out that this puts Belarus on the verge of occupation, while the withdrawal of military equipment threatens its security. The People's Front has called for troops on Belarussian territory to swear an oath of allegiance to it immediately.

Former Soviet Army Officers Offered Posts

LD1201070992 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0300 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] All officers and warrant officers who were born in Belarus but who are serving at present outside Belarus will be given the possibility of returning to their motherland in the near future. This was stated yesterday by republican Minister for Defense Matters Pyotr (?Chaus) on Belarus Television. He underlined that, on their return, they will be offered positions in the Belarus Army no lower than those they occupied while serving in the former USSR's Armed Forces.

Parliament Abolishes Ministries, Departments

LD1001212192 Moscow Programma Radio Odin Network in Russian 2000 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] The new structure of the Belarussian Government was confirmed today by the Republic's parliament. Nine ministries and departments have been abolished, among them those for light industry, construction, and others. Many sectoral offices and directorates in the Council of Ministers' administrative staff will also be wound up. One of the posts of deputy chairman of the Belarus Council of Ministers has been abolished. The head of government, Vyacheslav Kebich, announced that the reforms are only now beginning.

A general blueprint for governing the economy is being drafted and will be submitted for parliamentary approval at the next session.

Moldova

Further Reportage on Dnestr Confrontation

OW1001190792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1743 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] A clash between the Moldovan and the Dnestr regional military occurred January 9 in the village of Glinnoye of the Grigoriopolskiy district in the Dnestr region. The two sides provide conflicting reports.

According to the Moldovan Interior Ministry, a group of militants attacked a column of automobiles which transported convoy regiment recruits from the training center to Kishinev.

As Dmitriy Korletyanu, head of the Moldovan Interior Ministry press office, told IF [INTERFAX] 60-70 people armed with automatic rifles attacked the soldiers under cover of armored vehicles. The commander ordered not to use arms to avoid bloodshed. The attackers tied his feet and hands, beat several soldiers and captured 4 trucks, as well as several hundred automatic rifles with ammunition. The attackers were led by Major Postika, head of the Dubossary "civil defense" force, allegedly by the order of the Dnestr region's leadership, Koreltyanu said.

However, the Dnestr Republican Supreme Council press service gives another version of the incident. It says a group of cadets from the former USSR Interior Ministry's training center penetrated an arms warehouse of a convoy regiment and made an attempt to take 350 automatic rifles, 30 machine guns, 1,600 grenades and about 100,000 cartridges in 4 trucks to Kishinev.

The column was stopped by the Dnestr republican guard and militia of the town of Grigoriopol. After talks between the two sides the arms and the trucks were confiscated. The cadets walked back to the training center in the village of Glinnoye.

Valeriy Litskai, head of the Dnestr republican Supreme Council, added that a Moldovan Interior Ministry representative, Vladimir Malozhen, arrived at the Dnestr region Friday [10 January] to settle the conflict.

Shooting Reported in Dubossary

LD1301113192 Moscow TASS in English 1110 GMT 13 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Kishinev January 13 TASS—There was shooting in the Moldovan town of Dubossary again. According to the Moldovan Interior Ministry, Dnestr guardsmen and men clad in military uniforms repeatedly fired upon a police post, patrol and civilian vehicles over the past two days. Two policemen and three civilians were wounded, including one woman.

The Dubossary authorities, for their part, confirmed the shooting did take place, but claimed it was provoked by the Moldovan police which, they believe, is whipping up tension in preparation for a new assault on the town.

Snegur on Stabilizing Dnestr

OW1201161692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1445 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Moldova's President Mircea Snegur said in Kishinev on Saturday [11 January] that next week a range of measures designed to stabilize the state of affairs in Dnester Region will be approved. He met with a group of officials from the Dubossary district executive committee who oppose the forming of the Dnester Republic and prefer to comply with Moldova's laws.

Moldova's President refrained from specifying Kishinev's plans concerning Dnestr Region.

Dnestr Supreme Soviet Adopts Defense Laws

LD1101170192 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0400 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] The undefined position and the fate of the Armed Forces of the former Soviet Union continue to worry millions of people. The fate of the servicemen of the 14th Army stationed on the territory of the Dnestr Republic has attracted the attention of the population of the Republic. This is what Gennadiy Varfolomeyev reported by telephone.

[Varfolomeyev] On 8 January 1992 the Supreme Soviet of the Dnestr Republic adopted and put into operation laws on defense, on the armed forces, on universal military service, and on military service in the Dnestr Moldovan Republic. The republican Directorate for Security and Defense has been instructed to draw up before 1 February the organization and establishment of the armed forces. Military units stationed on the territory of the Dnestr Republic are are to remain in their former establishments and structures until the completion of the reorganization process. They will be financed from the budget of the Dnestr Moldovan Republic.

The Dnestr Republic Government is instructed to prepare provisions for the social protection of servicemen by 1 February; to finance the payment of pensions to pensioners of the Ministry of Defense of the former Union living on the territory of the Dnestr Republic; to finance the capital investments for social facilities and housing for servicemen; to transfer officers and noncommissioned officers onto contracted military service, and at the same time to provide a 2.5-fold increase in their pay; and in the period 9-14 January to have the servicemen of formations and units located on the territory of the Dnestr Moldovan Republic swear an oath of allegiance to the people of the Dnestr Republic.

Igor Smirnov, president of the Dnestr Republic, has signed decrees on the armed forces and on performing military service in the Dnestr Moldovan Republic. The armed forces of the Dnestr Republic are created on the basis of the troops and formations stationed on its territory, with the exception of troops which form part of the strategic deterrent forces.

Igor Smirnov, president of the Dnestr Republic, has taken upon himself the duties of commander in chief of the armed forces. The unrecognized Dnestr Moldovan Republic has undertaken the upkeep of the armed forces, and the social protection of servicemen and also of pensioners of the Ministry of Defense of the former Union, counting on its no-deficit budget.

President Snegur Comments on National Army

OW1101185792 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1633 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Moldovan President Mircea Snegur stated Friday [10 January] evening that the Moldovan National Army will number lO-12 thousand people and will be a professional one. Mircea and Moldovan Premier Valeriu Muravski met in Kishinev with commanders of military units stationed on Moldovan territory.

IF's [INTERFAX's] correspondent reports it as told at the meeting that currently forces stationed in Moldova number 19,200 people. Mircea said since the Minsk summit confirmed the right of the Commonwealth nations to create their own armies, the Moldovan government is prepared to take control and finance the military units on its territory.

The Moldovan leadership has also stated that it would not follow Ukraine concerning the oath-taking question. Military servicemen will be offered to take the oath of allegiance only after they have determined whether they want to be Moldovan citizens or not. For those who would not like to serve in the Moldovan Army, conditions for departure or apartment exchange on the basis of the Russian-Ukrainian intergovernmental agreements will be created.

The Moldovan leadership said a group of senior officers is being formed by the Moldovan Department on Military Affairs to deal with building the national army.

Representatives of the units located on the left bank of the Dnestr River demanded that the republican leadership take more resolute actions to stabilize the situation in the Dnestr region. It was noted that the Dnestr leaders interfere with affairs of the military creating additional tension in the units.

First Internal Affairs Troops Swear Oath

LD0601124792 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1154 GMT 6 Jan 92

[By Fedor Angeli]

[Text] Kishinev, 6 Jan (TASS)—The first subunits of the republican Ministry of Internal Affairs troops have sworn a military oath of allegiance to Moldova. The TASS correspondent was told in the republican Ministry of Internal Affairs that there are problems with setting up these subunits, especially regarding officers and uniforms.

Ministry Completes Inquiry Into 13 Dec Clash

OW0701184692 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1733 GMT 7 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Interior Ministry of Moldova has completed an internal investigation of an armed conflict in the Dnestr region.

It has been established that the clashes between the Moldovan police and the Dnestr region guards which broke out on December 13, 1991, off the city of Dubossary and claimed the lives of 5 people were initiated personally by Lieutenant-Colonel Gamurar, the commander of a special police brigade, who gave order to his people to attack and to disarm the guards.

According to Mr. Gamurar, Moldovan Interior Minister Ion Kostash did not know anything about the operation "which was held to defend Dubossary's police department."

The investigation results refute an initial explanation of the Moldovan Interior Ministry, which claimed that the conflict was caused by the Dnestr region guards who attacked a police post.

Nevertheless, the behaviour of the Moldovan police in the conflict was found lawful whereas the Dnestr region guards arrested on December 13 remain in custody.

Parliament Allows Foreign-Owned Businesses

LD0501025792 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1540 GMT 4 Jan 92

[By Fedor Angeli]

[Text] Kishinev, 4 Jan (TASS)—The Moldovan parliament has made it legal to set up 100 percent foreign-owned businesses in the republic. The right to do so is contained within the law "On the Guidelines for Foreign Economic Activities in the Republic of Moldova," which was adopted today.

The parliament earlier adopted a law "On Leasehold." Leasing is to be allowed in all sectors of the economy, and can be applied to all types of assets and property. Land and other natural resources, enterprises, buildings, equipment, vehicles, and other items of value may be leased.

Kazakhstan

Government Considers Selling Weapons Abroad

OW1001172092 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1605 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] On Thursday [9 January], Kazakhstan's Deputy Prime Minister Daulet Simbayev told newsmen in Alma-Ata his republic may soon start selling weapons abroad. The Deputy Premier failed, however, to specify to IF's [INTERFAX's] correspondent to whom or to what amount his republic might be willing to sell weapons this year. He admitted Kazakhstan would find it very difficult to enter the international market on its own, for defense enterprises had developed very close partnership. Cooperation with Ukraine, Belarus and Russia would be necessary if Kazakhstan wanted to sell military hardware.

Daulet Simbayev felt at least a year would pass before his republic knew what amount of weaponry it had sold abroad on its own and what amount it had sold in cooperation with another republic.

Also on Thursday Prime Minister Sergey Tereschenko told Kazakhstan's Parliament that the republic might start selling weapons abroad. He said Kazakhstan needed assets to reduce its 8 billion ruble budget deficit.

President Says No

OW1101213192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1809 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Kazakhstan will firmly abide by the Alma-Ata agreement of the Commonwealth leaders "On Joint Measures in Relation to Nuclear Arms" under which it committed itself to not proliferating nuclear techniques, weapons and components and not to selling them abroad. Kazakhstan's President Nursultan Nazarbayev stated about that in an interview with INTERFAX asked to comment on the rumours about Kazakhstan's possible selling of nuclear arms abroad. [sentence as received]

Nazarbayev confirmed Kazakhstan's position reflected in the treaty signed by Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan. It says nuclear arms control will be in the hands of the Russian president and the Commonwealth commander-in-chief. "Nuclear arms can be used only with consent of the leaders of the four states," Nazarbayev noted.

Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Sergey Tereshenko told INTERFAX's correspondent that he had heard these rumours and suggested that "somebody wants to embroil or create suspiciousness among the Commonwealth nations."

Speaking about the possibility of selling conventional arms abroad, the prime minister said that "Kazakhstan simply has not so many arms so that it can sell them in large quantities." At the same time Tereshenko noted that Kazakhstan is currently "studying the market and it is yet unknown whom will the arms be sold to."

Security Council Resolution Creates Guard

LD1001145892 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 1300 GMT 10 Jan 92

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] The Kazakhstan Security Council adopted a resolution today on setting up a republic guard. The guard will have 2,000 people and will be stationed at Alma-Ata. The Council decreed that Kazakh servicemen who serve outside the republic should refrain from taking the military oath proposed by the governments of other republics of the former Union.

INTERFAX has learned that the Security Council invited Nazarbayev to take the post of commander in chief of the republic armed forces. The president, however, declined this offer referring to the fact that the republic's military concept has not yet been developed properly.

Government Applies For IMF Membership

LD1201160792 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1432 GMT 12 Jan 92

[By KAZTAG correspondent Gennadiy Kulagin for TASS]

[Text] Alma-Ata, 12 Jan (TASS)—The government of the Republic of Kazakhstan today officially applied to become a member of the International Monetary Fund. A letter addressed to the managing director of the IMF was signed by Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko. A positive resolution of this matter creates the chance that Kazakhstan may also become a member of the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development, the International Development Association, and the Mulitlateral Investment Guarantee Agency, which are united by the general concept of a world bank.

Strikes Under Way at Two More Coal Mines

OW1001210992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1937 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Two more mines in the Karaganda coalfields in Kazakhstan have gone on strike. The "Tentekskaya" mine stopped on December 9 last year. The workers demand a 100% rise in wages and the payment of delayed wages for the previous two months.

In Alma-Ata President Nursultan Nazarbayev, of Kazakhstan, met with the miners' delegates on January 8. The president suggested a 12-month moratorium on strikes and promised fulfilling all the miners' demands, including higher wages, stable food supply and others. No delegates from the "Tenteksyaya" mine attended the meeting.

The miners' delegates warned that industrial action was likely to sweep the Karaganda coalfields having 26 mines with a total work force of 110 thousand.

Kyrgyzstan

President Decrees Formation of Interior Troops

OW1001210392 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1937 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In Kyrgyzstan President Askar Akayev has issued a decree on Interior Ministry troops to be formed on the basis of the units subordinate to the former USSR Interior Ministry and deployed in his republic. The Interior Ministry troops will take orders directly from the president and have special mechanized police units and a special unit in charge of guarding prisons and escorting persons in custody.

Government Legalizes Opium Poppy Growing

LD0901155892 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1200 GMT 9 Jan 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Judging by a RIA report from Bishkek, there will be no shortage of opium, of all things. Kyrgyzstan has finalized the legalization of opium poppy growing. This has been learned from sources close to the republican president. Trial sowing will start this year. The crop is expected to be cultivated on 200 hectares. There is practically no possibility of breaking into the world market with that stuff since the market is controlled by almost 30 countries. Consequently, the opium will presumably be supplied to states that have emerged from the former union. Let us hope that we will pull through difficult times without intoxicating ourselves with opium.

Government Applies For UN Membership

LD1101054892 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1845 GMT 10 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Menkes]

[Text] UNO, 10 Jan (TASS)—The Republic of Kyrgyzstan has applied to become a member of the United Nations. This is contained in a statement sent by President Askar Akayev that was addressed to Boutros Ghali, the organization's secretary general. The statement's text was conveyed to the UN Secretariat and officially issued here today. The statement reads that the Republic of Kyrgyzstan adheres to the UN rules and is prepared to fulfill the obligations under them. An important role of the United Nationsin supporting the movement for independence of the developing countries is being stressed. The document contains a reference to the declaration of the republic's state of independence. It is being pointed out that Kyrgyzstan believes that all peoples have a right to a free determination of their political status and to the implementation of their economic, social, and cultural development. The application says that Kyrgyzstan is striving to create a humane democratic state based on the rule of law and committed to ensuring a worthy life, dignity, and honor to any person living on its territory, irrespective of their nationality, religion, and social status.

Bishkek Students Hold 'First Protest Rally'

PM1001162192 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 10 Jan 92 p 2

[K. Bayalinov report: "There Is No Trifling With a Hungry Student"]

[Text] Despite the "Kyrgyzstan" Democratic Movement's decision, students came out onto Bishkek's central square 9 January. The first protest rally during Aksar Akayev's period of rule was held and students demanded an increase in their grants. In addition to economic demands, political demands were also made: The resignation of ministers and leaders who were products of the party apparatus, the introduction of higher education in the Kyrgyz language, and a review of criminal cases associated with the tragic events in Osh in 1990.

The tension among the assembled students abated only when President Akayev himself (whose popularity still remains high) proposed that they gather in the hall to discuss the issues raised.

Officials Explain Price Liberalization

LD1201134792 Bishkek Radio Bishkek Network in Russian 1400 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Leaders of the republic are continuing their meetings with labor collectives, students, and schoolchildren in Bishkek. The main theme raised is the liberalization of prices.

Speaking at the Lenin Machine-Building Works production association, Vice President Kuznetsov told the collective of the enterprises about the difficult situation ahead in connection with the freeing of prices. He called on the factory workers to show understanding for the measures the republic has been forced to take in order to defend its market from chaos. The debate was not easy: The workers expressed their dissatisfaction at the fact that there has been no increase in goods in the shops. The question of wages was also raised. Feliks Kuler, Minister of Internal Affairs, also replied to the factory workers' questions.

Leaders of ministries and departments of the republic, chairmen of city and rayon soviets of people's deputies, also held meetings at other Bishkek enterprises and in higher educational establishments.

Today, at the Polytechnical Institute, a meeting was held between leaders of the republic with students of the capital's higher educational establishments. There was one item on the agenda—price liberalization. The ministers, after having described the situation in the republic's national economy, explained that from the economic point of view, price liberalization is one of the inevitable, absolutely essential elements of the transition to a market economy. These measures are in no way directed at emptying the pockets of the working people, but at protecting and stimulating the producers of goods, and expanding their output. They also dwelt in detail on measures taken by the government of Kyrgyzstan for the social protection of the population, including students.

Armenia

Reportage on Gamsakhurdia Situation, Future

Officials on Thwarted Meeting

PM0901120992 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Interview with Georgiy Shengelaya, personal adviser to Tengiz Sigua, by correspondent Sergey Bablumyan in Idzhevan, Armenia, 7 January: "Intermediaries' Complex Mission"]

[Text] Idzhevan-Yerevan, 7 Jan—"We came to Idzhevan to enter into talks with Gamsakhurdia's plenipotentiaries. The only sensible decision that could have been expected from him was to accept our demands immediately," Tengiz Sigua's personal adviser Georgiy Shengelaya stated to your IZVESTIYA correspondent.

However, the journalists' expectation of seeing in Idzhevan representatives of Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who was somewhere nearby, proved to be vain. Toward evening on 7 January it was learned that the delegation that had arrived from Georgia had been refused a meeting.

But before Georgiy Shengelaya and his comrades set off on the return journey, I asked him to answer several questions.

[Bablumyan] What possible results of this and, probably, your future missions would you consider least successful for yourselves?

[Shengelaya] I do not see any losing scenarios for ourselves—this state of affairs cannot go on forever. I would point out that the Armenian Government has shown goodwill, as demonstrated by its granting of temporary asylum to the fugitives in the border zone. Our aim is to obtain exhaustive information on the composition of the group in Idzhevan in order to be able to determine the degree of guilt of each one of them regarding the tragic events that have taken place.

Today a democratic regime has been established in Georgia, to which the following fact in particular bears witness: We have treated all those whom we managed to detain after Gamsakhurdia's flight in a civilized manner—pledges have been obtained from them not to leave, and they have all been allowed to go home. At the time of my departure from Tbilisi not one of Gamsakhurdia's supporters was under arrest.

[Bablumyan] Mr. Shengelaya, you talked about a new regime being established in Georgia. Are there legal grounds for considering this regime lawful?

[Shengelaya] The point is that in essence an uprising has taken place in Georgia and, as happens in such instances, a military administration has been established. But it has already announced that in the near future it will hand over its powers to Prime Minister Sigua, who has already set about forming his new cabinet. He will hold office until the parliamentary elections. [Shengelaya ends]

And now a few words about the origins of Armenia's mission as mediator. The need arose for this when it was requested by official representatives of Gamsakhurdia and the opposition. An Armenian delegation arrived in Tbilisi 2 January and entered into negotiations with the warring sides.

"We have pursued a single aim," Ashot Manucharyan, chief adviser to the Armenian president on national security, stated, "to halt the bloodshed and find peaceful ways out of the crisis. I have also examined the question of granting Zviad Gamsakhurdia free passage through Armenian territory."

As official Armenian sources informed us, the Georgian leadership does not object to Zviad Gamsakhurdia staying temporarily on Armenian territory until this problem is finally resolved.

Reportedly Invited to Paris

NC1001162792 Yerevan Radio Yerevan Network in Armenian 1500 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] The Armenian Pan-National Movement Press Center has informed the Russian press agency SNARK that Georgiy [surname indistinct], a Radio Liberty correspondent, called Yerevan from Paris on 9 January and requested that the following message be passed on to Georgian President Gamsakhurdia: Shalva Tataishvilli and a number of exiles invite you [Gamsakhurdia] and your family to Paris.

When a SNARK correspondent asked who Tataishvilli is, the press center said that the caller said that Gamsakhurdia knows Tataishvilli and that is all that matters.

Temporary Asylum Announced

LD1101174592 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1707 GMT 11 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 11 Jan (TASS)—The Republic of Armenia is ready to grant Zviad Gamsakhurdia, his family, and the bodyguard accompanying the Georgian president permission to stay temporarily on its territory. Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan stated this in a message sent to Zviad Gamsakhurdia in response to his request for temporary political asylum in Armenia.

At the same time, the message, the text of which has just been circulated by the press service of the Armenian president, states that "after handing over the inventoried arms and ammunition on them," other armed persons accompanying Gamsakhurdia will have the opportunity to leave Armenia "in any direction they choose, provided it is by flights of the Armenian air company." The message notes that the confiscated weapons and ammunition will be handed over to Georgia's lawful authorities after the situation becomes stable there. "We," L. Ter-Petrosyan noted, "value and support your aspiration to avert further bloodshed in Georgia."

The press service of the Armenian president also published the text of a message from Zviad Gamsakhurdia sent earlier to the Armenian leadership. It has also been reported here this evening that a telegram from Tengiz Sigua, the head of the provisional government of Georgia, has been sent to the leadership of Armenia, which says that "the government of the Republic of Georgia guarantees the complete immunity and protection of the persons accompanying Gamsakhurdia when they return to Georgia. [no end quotation marks received]

According to official data, after the surrender of weapons at Idzhevan today at 0600 local time this morning, 43 members of Gamsakhurdia's guard were given the opportunity to leave Armenia in the direction of the locality of Zhdanovka, Bogdanovskiy Rayon, Georgia.

Press Cautioned on Coverage

LD1201222192 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 2100 GMT 12 Jan 92

[By Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan, 12 Jan (TASS)—The Armenian Government, respecting the principle of noninterference in Georgia's internal affairs, is eager to see the very rapid stabilization of the situation and restoration of peace in the fraternal Republic, says a statement by the Armenian president's press service circulated here tonight. The document calls on all mass media to be careful in their approach to, and objective in their coverage of, events involving Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia's temporary presence in Armenia.

The Armenian Government, the statement stresses, responded to the request of the Georgian official authorities and opposition to mediate in settling the Georgian conflict in the hopes of bringing armed hostilities in fraternal Georgia to a quick end. Talks held by an Armenian delegation with the opposing sides in Tbilisi examined the issue of granting President Gamsakhurdia temporary asylum in Armenia in the event of his possible departure from Georgia.

The press service statement notes that the opposition on 6 January granted Gamsakhurdia the opportunity to leave Georgia and go to Armenia via the Azerbaijani territory. There are again reports of an exchange of messages between the presidents of Georgia and Armenia and of a telegram from the head of the provisional government of Georgia as a result of which agreement was reached on allowing Gamsakhurdia to remain temporarily in Idzhevanskiy rayon, in northeast Armenia.

As the Armenian side agreed to grant Zviad Gamskhurdia temporary asylum, the statement says, an accord was reached that "Armenian territory must not be used by the Georgian president for engaging in political activities."

Views Shevardnadze Role

PM0901175392 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 10 Jan 92 Morning Edition p 1

[Interview with Zviad Gamsakhurdia by Sergey Bablumyan: "Zviad Gamsakhurdia: 'I Remain President'"]

[Text] Idzhevan—A small boardinghouse in the neighborhood of Idzhevan. It was here that Zviad Gamsakhurdia and his entourage and bodyguard found refuge following the dramatic events in Tbilisi. It was late, but Z. Gamsakhurdia agreed to a meeting...

[Babluymyan] You said that you do not intend to give up the presidency. What grounds do you have for such a statement?

[Gamsakhurdia] A president elected by the people has no right to resign at the behest of a group of people. I can only go if my voters reverse their votes. No one has the right to remove a legally elected president from power, and certainly not by violent means. What happened in Tbilisi was basically a putsch. I left Georgia not because I was unable to hold out, but because I did not want the bloodshed to go on.

[Bablumyan] Mr. Gamsakhurdia, did you see the evening news bulletin from Moscow, which talked in particular about the torture your people carried out in the Government House bunker?

[Gamsakhurdia] I did not see the program, but I can definitely say that it was total disinformation, another stunt by the so-called opposition, which is now resorting to all manner of falsifications and slander. I could say the very same about the rumors that I stole money and valuables when I left Georgia.

[Bablumyan] Do you think you made mistakes while you were in power?

[Gamsakhurdia] Of course I did. No statesman can be right all the time. One of my mistakes was to be too soft on the gang of criminals who carried out the putsch to overthrow the legitimate power.

[Bablumyan] In your opinion, does Eduard Shevardnadze have anything to do with the events in Georgia, as one hears from the people around you?

[Gamsakhuria] Of course he has. He rejoices at the putschists' actions and tries to portray them as democrats, describing the vandalism that is going on as a democratic process. The events in Georgia showed that he is directly associated with them and even played a leading role in them.

[Bablumyan] What is your forecast of future events in Georgia?

[Gamsakhurdia] I think the anarchy will continue and the new power will not be able to control the situation in the country. I will continue to struggle by exposing the junta and telling people the truth.

[Bablumyan] As we know, Tengiz Sigua was appointed prime minister by you. How do you explain your differences with him, which eventually developed into open hostility?

[Gamsakhurdia] It was all because I dismissed him and made him bitter. I made a mistake in appointing him prime minister, and I admit it.

[Bablumyan] Mr. President, how do you explain the intelligentsia's criticism of you as a person, which we have heard so often?

[Gamsakhurdia] What you are referring to is not the intelligentsia, but just part of it. To be precise, it is the former party, communist intelligentsia, whereas most true intellectuals are on my side and continue to support me.

[Bablumyan] Yesterday I met with Georgiy Shengelaya, and he claimed that you had taken over the entire Georgian press...

[Gamsakhursdia] That is ridiculous. There were 20 opposition papers coming out in Georgia and they printed whatever they wanted. As for GRUZINFORM, we merely changed its name and got rid of those who were not doing their jobs.

[Bablumyan] Do you propose, if events go that way, heading a government in exile?

[Gamsakhurdia] I do not rule it out. [Gamsakhurdia ends]

Armenian Supreme Council Chairman Babken Ararktsyan told your correspondent that in the very near future, Zviad Gamsakhurdia is expected to make an official application to the Armenian leadership, which will be considered.

"We do not have any reason at the moment," B. Ararktsyan said, "not to regard Gamsakhurdia as the president of Georgia. Everything has to be decided in accordance with the norms of international law and the demands of the Georgian Constitution. No application for political asylum has been received from Gamsakhurdia yet. Our mission at the moment is merely to give him and his family refuge and provide them with security."

Azerbaijan

'State of War' Prevails in Nagorno-Karabakh

NC1001212292 Yerevan Radio Yerevan Network in Armenian 1630 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] ARMENPRES correspondent Aleksandr Grigoryan and KARABAKH NEWS AGENCY correspondent Marten Petrosyan report from Stepanakert that 33-year-old Artur Mkrtchyan, chairman of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] Supreme Soviet, has said that a state of war virtually prevails in the current (?relations) between Azerbaijan and the NKR. An unpredictable situation prevails in the young republic. Five peaceful Armenian residents were killed here on 8 and 9 January alone.

The Republic's Supreme Soviet building has temporarily been transformed into a maternity ward and the former oblast party committee building into a military hospital. The number of injured brought there daily is increasing. The republican hospital's capabilities are extremely limited.

The grave situation in Stepanakert is compounded due to the lack of power, heating, gas and [words indistinct].

It is not hard to understand why, then, one of the first laws adopted by the NKR's Supreme Soviet was one on the state of emergency.

The Supreme Soviet will continue its deliberations on 11 January.

Stepanakert Situation Reported

LD1101093292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0500 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Here are some reports from Stepanakert. The first session of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Supreme Soviet suspended its work yesterday and will resume it after additional parliamentary elections are held. And here is a report from a SNARK correspondent:

The capital of Nagorno-Karabakh has been without electricity and water for five days now. The town has been bombarded during all these days from the nearby Azerbaijani populated places. Stepanakert is being bombarded by artillery shells and missiles of the Alazan type. People are forced to go down to the cellars at night where it is safer and warmer. All the bread shops have long been closed. The inhabitants of Stepanokert bake the so-called blockade flat cakes. Many families have run out of flour and try to somehow persuade the children to eat soup without bread.

Artur Mkrtchyan, candidate of historical sciences, who is the newly elected chairman of the Supreme Soviet, said in a conversation with your correspondent that Azerbaijan is actually conducting a war against the young Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR]. This is so. To put is precisely, an undeclared war has been unleashed here. Nine peaceful people have been killed by Azerbaijani bullets during the last three days. Nevertheless, the process of creating a new state is in progress.

Oleg Yesayan, first chairman of the Council of Ministers of the NKR, who was elected two days ago, has been instructed to submit proposals within 10 days on the structure and composition of the Republic government. One can surely say that in the conditions of the most cruel blockade undertaken by Azerbaijan, the new government will meet with great difficulties in its activities.

Two Killed in Shelling

LD1201194492 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1658 GMT 12 Jan 92

[By Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow, 12 Jan (TASS)—At least two people were killed and three others injured in Nagorno-Karabakh today, the Nagorno- Karabakh internal affairs directorate reports. Preliminary reports indicate up to 10 houses were destroyed in the Martuni rayon center, which came under rocket and artillery shelling from the Azerbaijani village of Amiranlar in the afternoon.

Observers Urge Recognition of Nagorno-Karabakh

OW1201163192 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1445 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] International observers, including deputy speaker of the U.K. House of Lords baroness Caroline Cox, have called on the world community to recognize the outcome of the December referendum on Nagorno-Karabakh's independence and parliamentary elections in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic (NKR) as the reflection of the Karabakh's people will.

The observers' recommendations, produced after their mission to Nagarno-Karabakh, point out that the world community should help penetrate the blockade of Nagorno-Karabakh and "avert a possible massive Azerbaijani attack against the Armenian population of Karabakh", Lur, an independent news center reports.

The international observers believe the situation in NAGORNO-KARABAKH [capitalization as received] has worsened since the autumn of 1991. It has been recommended to send in urgent aid to the Armenia population in medicine, baby food and warm clothes. In addition, the observers have called on human rights and humanitarian organizations, including foreign ones, to establish a permanent presence there and to exercise control over the situation in the region.

Mutalibov's Letter to Bush Disclosed

NC1001162992 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 2000 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text of President Ayaz Mutalibov's letter to President Bush; date not given—read by annnouncer]

[Text] Esteemed President, I was satisfied to hear that the U.S. Government has recognized the Azerbaijan Republic as an independent state. I hope that full diplomatic relations will soon be established between our countries. U.S. diplomatic representatives' presence in Azerbaijan is important because it gives you and the United States the right impression about reality in our Republic and in the Caucasus region in general.

I assure you that the principles which Secretary of State James Baker pointed to and which were included in your letter comply with the principles and views we uphold. We believe that political alliances should be established peacefully and democratically, that existing internal and international borders be respected, legal norms be observed, and democratic processes be employed to realize political change and guarantee human rights. I also wish to assure you that we are committed to the Helsinki Final Act and the Paris Charter.

Undoubtedly, the Azerbaijan Republic, as a country which does not have nuclear arms, will participate in the nuclear non-proliferation agreement and, as a sovereign state, give the International Atomic Energy Agency the required guarantees. We are also trying to adopt a market economy, particularly to encourage ownership and develop our foreign relations with Western countries, including the United States.

We have no difference of opinion in principle with the United States or other countries on the urgent problems which are important to Azerbaijan. Nevertheless, establishing full diplomatic relations with Armenia and deferring the establishment of similar with Azerbaijan has surprised the Azerbaijani people. I trust that this will soon be removed. I also wish to urge you, the most powerful country's president, to use your influence so that justice and peace may prevail. I am prepared to maintain official relations through Ambassador Strauss and his office in Moscow. I am convinced that relations between our administrations will lead to positive and productive mutual relations between our countries.

Esteemed President, please accept my congratulations on the new year. I wish happiness and prosperity to you and to all the American people.

My respects.

[Signed] Ayaz Mutalibov

Criminal Investigation Opens on Boat Explosion

NC1201103392 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 0300 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] When we have not recovered from the tragic destruction of a military helicopter in Nagorno-Karabakh in November 1991 and shed tears for our fellow countrymen, who have been and are being killed in the undeclared war, we are shocked by another tragic report.

The explosion and fire on the ferryboat between Krasnovodsk and Baku destroyed the vessel. According to preliminary reports, 22 people were killed. The causes of the tragic incident are being investigated. We can report the measures which various organizations took.

Medical workers have been working under extreme conditions on many occasions recently. When the tragic incident was reported the republic's Health Ministry established an operations center to provide emergency medical aid to passengers. Victims were transferred to hospitals in Baku. Deputy Health Minister Guseynov is in charge of the center. Guseynov told an AZERINFORM correspondent: We have established emergency medical aid brigade groups and alerted the hospitals, which have started receiving the injured. Four of the 86 [as heard] wounded passengers were sent home after treatment. The rest are still being treated. Victims have various degrees of burns, mainly on their hands and faces. Some 15 passengers are experiencing severe breathing difficulties. Their condition is described as serious. Everything is being done to save them. The hospitals have been supplied with blood, medical drugs, and bandages, and arrangements have been made for staff to work around the clock. This is the preliminary information disclosed by medical workers.

Azer Karayev, chief of the Azerbaijan Ministry of National Security Transportation and Communications Department, said: Eyewitnesses said that the explosion occurred when a group of passengers gathered on deck as the ferryboat approached the docks. Fire broke out immediately, flames engulfing the second and third decks, where the passengers and crew were. Twelve bodies were discovered in cabins during the first few hours after the flames were extinguished. The search for bodies continued through the night and yesterday morning, when another 10 bodies were discovered. The Caspian Maritime Administration has established a committee to investigate the incident. Meanwhile, an operations group has been set up, including Procuracy, Ministry of Transportation, Procuracy of Transportation Services, and National Security Ministry officials.

Yuriy Karasiyev, deputy chief of the Azerbaijan Internal Affairs Ministry Fire Brigade Administration, said: The firemen had great difficulty entering the cabins, because of the [words indistinct] blazing synthetic materials and heat. The flames engulfed an area of 500 cubic meters. It took more than four hours to extinguish the blaze. A criminal case file has been opened and an investigation launched into the incident.

Georgia

Gamsakhurdia Supporters Involved in Fighting

Entourage Clashes With Troops

LD1101113492 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] We have just received a report from the YPRINDA agency. Early this morning, a group of armed persons crossed the border between Armenia and Georgia in buses and cars, near the village of Bogdanovka. They are people from the entourage of President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who fled from Georgia, the report notes. A clash occurred with the local militia and guards supporting the new Georgian authorities. As a result, at least four persons have been wounded. Two persons from the pro-Gamsakhurdia group have been captured.

According to preliminary information, the group was trying to cross into the western part of Georgia. A helicopter carrying armed guards has taken off for the location of the incident, the YPRINDA report points out.

More Clashes; Dead Mourned

OW1101201992 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1633 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Today Georgia has a mourning day at the provisional government's decision. Our correspondent reports that opposition fighters and Gamsakhurdia's supporters killed during the fighting in Tbilisi are being buried together. In their television address last night the present leaders of the republic, Tengiz Sigua, Jaba Ioseliani and Tengiz Kitovani, gave their condolences to the families of those killed and expressed the hope that there would be no more bloodshed.

Meanwhile, as our correspondent was told in the press centre of the Georgian Interior Ministry, several policemen had been killed and wounded in various parts of the Republic in the last few days. In this connection the police have been given orders to kill attackers on the spot.

According to the public prosecutor of Zugdidi District (western Georgia), Kiazo Chanturia, there was an armed attack on a car with the chief of the district police department, in the course of which one policeman was wounded. On the whole, Mr Chanturia told our correspondent, the situation was complicated in the district. A group of armed supporters of the overthrown president arrived in Zugdidi from Sukhumi and was calling upon the population to come to a meeting.

There was also unrest in Batumi yesterday. A bomb went off at the door of the house of David Berdzenishvili, a member of parliament, although nobody was injured.

Our correspondent was informed in the press centre of the Military Council that in the town of Bogdanovka on the Armenian border in the small hours today the local police had had a skirmish with an armed team of Gamsakhurdia's supporters who were trying to get into Georgia. Several of the ex-president's men were wounded, two of whom were captured by the police.

General Mobilization Announced

LD1201093792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0715 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] According to the YPRINDA agency, acts of national disobedience are taking place in western Georgia. Gamsakhurdia supporters are most active in the towns of Zugdidi, Sukhumi, and Kutaisi. A general mobilization of the male population in the 18-45 age bracket has been proclaimed in Sukhumi and Zugdidi. Railway traffic has been effectively blocked and transportation to eastern Georgia is not getting through.

Prime Minister on Situation

OW1201165592 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1445 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Tengiz Sigua, the prime-minister of a provisional government, held a press-conference in Tbilisi on Saturday [11 January] night, saying that the political situation in the republic "is being gradually brought back to normal." According to Mr. Sigua, only in Zugdidi, Poti and Sukhumi armed supporters of Gamsakhurdia are trying to provoke unrest.

Mr Sigua said also, on January 11 national guardsmen loyal to president Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who fled Tbilisi for Armenia, divided into three groups, left the ousted president and tried to penetrate into Georgia. However, after a brief clash they have given up weapons, once all of them were guaranteed freedom. According to Mr Sigua, only his relatives and personal guard—a total of 15-17 people—are left with Zviad Gamsakhurdia. Under an agreement with Armenia, all of them will be moved to a place off Yerevan.

Yesterday, the situation in the republic was "more or less quiet", an IF [INTERFAX] correspondent has been told in the press-center of the Military Council. A regular consultative meeting of parliamentarians has been scheduled for Sunday [12 January].

Rails Dismantled

LD1201180192 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1700 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] The situation with railroads in Georgia remains complicated as supporters of President Gamsakhurdia among the Georgian railroad workers are conducting a political strike. Rails have been dismantled near the station of Inguri, close to Georgia's border with Russia. As a result, six passenger trains and a few freighters are stranded on the Russian side of the border. The situation is further aggravated by the impossibility of sending Armenia-bound trains via Azerbaijan owing to the conflict between those two republics.

Supporters 'Neutralized'

LD1201232192 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2100 GMT 12 Jan 92

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpt] A report from Tbilisi says that a group of military men serving as Gamsakhurdia's bodyguards that crossed the border to Georgia has been localized and neutralized. Another group surrendered their weapons voluntarily. Gamsakhurdia has about 30 people staying with him. Meetings in support of the ousted president continue in Tbilisi and some other Georgian towns. The military council has ceased its activity, and power has passed to local self-governing bodies. [passage omitted]

Prisoners Said Beaten by Gamsakhurdia Backers

LD1001155292 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1400 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Text] Journalist Mikhail Mchtlidze asserts that in the bunker of Government House in the Georgian capital of Tbilisi he and other prisoners were cruelly beaten by supporters of President Zviad Gamsakhurdia. Mchtlidze stated that from 3 January until the seizure by the opposition, he was in Government House. He saw 15 other prisoners in the bunker that were mocked and beaten up. The journalist was accused of taking part in the making of independent television programs. According to him, some of the prisoners were parliament deputies.

Gamsakhurdia Supporters Said To Sack Treasury

OW1101202292 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1633 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] In an interview given to our correspondent today the manager of the National Bank of Georgia, Vazha Jinjikhadze, confirmed the earlier reports to the effect that the state treasury had been plundered by ex-President Gamsakhurdia's supporters.

He said the Georgian Prosecutor's Office had begun to calculate the damage, which could well exceed the amount reported in the press.

Mr Jinjikhadze also said that the former authorities had not been paying wages and pensions to the population for four months. The arrears amounted to about two billion roubles. Nevertheless, he said, the present authorities were going to start paying wages and pensions next week.

Shevardnadze on Participation in Government

LD1301003192 Moscow Teleradiokompaniya Ostankino Television First Program Network in Russian 2000 GMT 12 Jan 92

["Exclusive" interview with former USSR External Relations Minister Eduard Shevardnadze by unidentified correspondent at Shevardnadze's Moscow home on 12 January; from the "Itogi" program; first and last grafs read by presenter Yevgeniy Kiselev—recorded]

[Text] How will Georgian events develop? When this question is asked, virtually everyone asks whether Shevardnadze will play some sort of role in the new situation. Will he return to Tbilisi? In what capacity? This is what he told our correspondent today in an exclusive interview at his Moscow home:

[Begin recording] [Shevardnadze] It all depends on the will of my people, on what they decide. As for my active participation, I do have such a desire, and I think that this is realistic, that there is a real prospect for me firmly to promote the emergence of a humane society now, at this decided watershed in the Republic's development, the state's development.

[Correspondent] Have you received any specific offers from Georgia?

[Shevardnadze] No, and there could not have been any such thing because the process of forming a provisional government is under way now. I think that they have quite correctly decided that military instruments—as it were, the Military Council—are now gradually moving into the background, that a provisional government is being formed that will organize the elections to a new parliament, and that the building of a law-governed state will begin. [end recording]

Nevertheless, it seems to me that Shevardnadze's figure could, in the future, cement together Georgia's numerous political forces, split by the civil war. This is why both the victors and the defeated could find themselves needing Shevardnadze. Besides, who else in Georgia is an internationally recognized politician of such scope? With his prestige, Shevardnadze would help an opposition that has come to power by what were indisputably unconstitutional means to impart legality to the new regime and to facilitate recognition of it by other states. The only remaining question is whether Shevardnadze will himself agree to such a role. I think we will have an answer to this question soon.

Views Political Situation

92US0184A Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Jan 92 p 1

[Interview with Eduard Shevardnadze, former USSR minister of foreign affairs, by Aleksandr Gagua; place and date not given: "'I Would Not Reject an Offer To Become a Part of New Political Structures': Eduard Shevardnadze on the Situation in Georgia"]

[Text] [Gagua] Are you currently in contact with the new leaders of Georgia?

[Shevardnadze] Yes. I had a phone conversation with Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua. Yesterday I had quite a detailed conversation with Dzhaba Ioseliani and with people who do not hold official positions but participated and still participate in the process of democratization. I also have contacts with the representatives of the other side who do not share the views of the current leadership, who supported Gamsakhurdia before and who continue to support him.

[Gagua] Recently your readiness to become a part of new political structures in Georgia has been discussed, referring to your interviews in the foreign press. What would you say about this?

[Shevardnadze] In this case, the issue is for me to help my motherland to overcome this grave situation, what I would call an impasse, to the best of my power and ability. The state of affairs is truly catastrophic from the point of view of economics, the political situation, and interethnic relations. I consider it my duty to do everything possible. As far as my participation in the subsequent construction of a democratic state is concerned, everything in this matter depends on the will of the people and on the individuals who at present head the republic and head its political parties, factions, and movements. Should there be such proposals, I would not reject them. Should there be such.

[Gagua] At present, Georgia very much needs your tremendous experience and high international prestige. However, the campaign against you mounted by Gamsakhurdia in the Georgian mass media was not for naught...

[Shevardnadze] I am aware of how the public opinion of me was shaped. A lot of the criticism I am familiar with is correct, especially that by scientists and public figures. However, wholesale aspersions were also cast on everything useful that I and my comrades have accomplished. There was also revolting, outright slander. I understand that such campaigns do leave a certain mark on the perception of the people, and that there are citizens, a good number of citizens, who believed and continue to believe that there are grounds for the accusations that were leveled against me by the president and his entourage. However, I do not blame them: When it is a person of such rank as the lawfully elected president of a republic who is talking... We may understand them. However, I think that time will tell who is right and who is not, in which cases I made mistakes and in which cases...others made mistakes.

[Gagua] The dispersal of a demonstration yesterday in Tbilisi put many people on their guard who believed that after driving Gamsakhurdia out democracy would prevail in Georgia.

[Shevardnadze] I do not know the details of the incident yesterday. However, this is what I would like to say. At present, the tension is so great, the confrontation is so heavy, and the threat of this conflict growing into a broad-scale civil war is so real that, it seems to me, very energetic actions are needed, including certain strong measures with a view toward restoring order. On the other hand, this state has its own laws like any other. They should be complied with until other, more modern and civilized laws are created. At this stage, certain strong measures to enforce compliance with these laws are unavoidable in order to avert and preclude bloodshed and a tragic turn of events. A second point I would also like to make is—I am certain that in the immediate future, perhaps, even within days, everything that the leaders of Georgia, including the president, engaged in while in power will come to light. I received certain preliminary information; if just 15 percent of it corresponds to the truth, I believe the people will understand that they have been misled. Empty promises were given during the presidential election campaign. Later, the trust of the people was used to accomplish the dirtiest deeds, not in any way compatible with civilized international norms. I believe that all of this will be clarified within days. Perhaps, at that point both the array of forces and the attitude of the people toward what has transpired will change.

[Gagua] What do you think about the future of Gamsakhurdia? The leadership of Armenia in whose territory he ended up is in a difficult situation.

[Shevardnadze] I have contacts with the leaders of the Armenian state. I have a long-standing friendship and relationships with some of them, which make it possible to discuss such delicate issues. I understand that they now find themselves in a very difficult situation. I believe that no decision should be made for at least several days, until the situation clears up and it is established to what degree the available information is confirmed. At that point the leadership of the Armenian state will be able to make the kind of decision which any civilized government makes in such cases.

Ministry Drafts Reservists To Form Army

LD1201133392 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] The Georgian Ministry of Defense has announced a call-up of reservists in order to form regular units of a national army. The call-up concerns those who have experienced military service and also participants in military action in Afghanistan.

Peace Holds in South Ossetia; Aid Sought

LD1201184892 Moscow TASS in English 1608 GMT 12 Jan 92

[By Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz January 12 TASS—People in South Ossetia have lived one more day filled with hope for a settlement of the socio-political situation in the region, the press centre of the South Ossetia Information Committee reports.

The cessation of missile and artillery bombardment and the removal of strain off Ossetian-Georgian relations are having a positive effect on the life of the administrative centre of South Ossetia.

The supply of electricity, gas, water and heat to Tskhinvali has been resumed. Shops reopened. In the streets of the city one can see children, women and elderly people who only recently had to take refuge in shelters and basements from nightly bombardments.

Combat engineer units of Interior Ministry troops and self-defence detachments have completed the clearing-up of all detours. This will make it possible to establish a regular traffic of motor transport in the coming days to bring in humanitarian aid supplies from North Ossetia.

Attempts are being also made to break through the transport blockade on the Dzhava-Tskhinvali main road which runs across Georgian villages.

Little is known so far about the destiny of residents of remote Ossetian villages in Tskhinvali and Znauri districts. However, reliable sources confirm that militants have discontinued their punitive actions against civilians and that there are no instances of hostage-taking or arson attacks on houses.

Re-registration of refugees from Georgia has begun in North Ossetia. "This will make it possible to bring under control the process of migration of refugees from Transcaucasia to North Ossetia and improve their accommodation," Lev Gagloyev, chairman of the Committee for Refugees from the Republic of Georgia, told TASS.

"We believe that the situation in South Ossetia and other areas of Georgia will stabilise soon and that refugees will return to their homes.

"It is time to think about North Ossetia which bears too heavy a burden put on it by the bloody confrontation in Georgia: Every sixth resident of North Ossetia is a refugee. The people of North Ossetia are also in need of help now", Gagloyev said.

Abkhazia Tense, Experiences 'News Vacuum'

LD1201204492 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1636 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] The Abkhaz Autonomous Republic is tense, with demonstrations there for the past week now. Correspondent Tengiz Pachkovia now reports by phone on the Abkhazia situation:

[Pachkovia] Demonstrations were held in Sukhumi and Gagri today, attended mainly by representatives of the Georgian community in Abkhazia. Georgians make up 48 percent of the autonomous republic's population. The Abkhazia meeting slogans are: Return the President to Georgia! Down with the Junta! and so on and so forth. Naturally, everybody wants to know whether there are opposition organizations in Abkhazia. There are, but they are not active at the moment, no doubt because they appreciate the real situation in the Abkhaz Autonomous Republic. It should also be noted that transportation is basically paralyzed for the fourth day running. Railway transport is paralyzed and so, to a lesser extent, are road communications between towns and air transport. A strike committee has been set up in Sukhumi. It is leading the protest action on the railways. The railwaymen say they will cut all lines leading to eastern Georgia and to Tbilisi. The following point should also be noted: The Abkhaz population is, on the whole, adopting a neutral position and is not participating in the demonstrations. However, demonstrations continued in Sukhumi today, despite the wet weather. Georgian Supreme Soviet deputies and Abkhaz Supreme Soviet deputies are participating in these meetings. TV programs from the Republic of Georgia have not been received in Abkhazia for several days now. Neither central nor republican newspapers are arriving here because they are printed in Tbilisi. The local press is publishing, but sources of information are, of course, restricted. A kind of news vacuum has developed in Abkhazia. The only sources of information are broadcasts of Central TV, Russian TV, and, of course, radio broadcasts from Moscow. That is the present situation in Abkhazia. It must be said that the official authorities in Abkhazia are doing their utmost to prevent a further unsettling of the situation, a further escalation of tension in the Abkhaz Autonomous Republic.

Estonia

Republic To Remain in Russian Power Grid

LD1001201792 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 10 Jan 91

[Text] Estonia will remain in the unified power grid with Russia. This was stated to an RIA correspondent by Arvi Hamburg, acting minister of industry and power engineering of that Republic. According to him, Estonia will only leave the unified power grid in the extreme case, if this winter Russian power production collapses owing to a lack of fuel.

Savisaar Seeks Emergency Powers for Economy

OW1101232392 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1800 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Estonian Premier Edgar Savisaar insists that it is necessary to introduce a state of economic emergency in the republic and to give the government emergency powers, said he in his Saturday weekly national radio emergency [passage as received]

According to Savisaar, the emergency must last until next spring when Estonia introduces its own currency, and then extended for another couple of months.

Savisaar emphasized that if the republican Supreme Soviet refuses to give emergency powers to the current government, a new government should be formed, "but the emergency state must be introduced in any case."

The premier said that the republican Supreme Soviet should postpone the republican election in Estonia till next autumn to prevent fuelling tension in the republic. According to him, an electoral campaign when the economic crisis has reached its peak means unjustified expenditures. According to Savisaar, some of the republican political forces have already launched an electoral campaign, but the date of the next election is unknown.

Government, Military To Continue Talks

OW1101014392 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2011 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The Estonian State Office and the Command of the Soviet Northwestern group of forces held talks in Tallinn January 10 on food supplies to Soviet troops stationed in Estonia. As is known, Estonia stopped supplying food to the units on its territory January 2.

According to the Estonian government press service, the military prepared for the talks a list of 40 needed food items. They want to receive no less food than in 1991. The Estonian side rejected the request, but talks will continue, Toomas Puura, head of the Estonian government state and border protection department, said.

The Estonian side believes the Northwestern Command should ask the Russian government for help.

Government Issues Ration Cards for Food

LD1201051392 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1500 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Excerpts] A closed session of the Estonian Government took place today. The main issue under discussion was the supplying of food. The government heard reports on present food shortages and adopted a resolution consisting of seven points.

The Estonian Government resolved to establish a system of ration cards for rye bread, milk, butter, and cheese for the first quarter of the current year for the entire republic. Ration cards will be valid from 11 January, which is the day after tomorrow. We will inform you in the course of today how much rye bread, milk, butter, or cheese one can buy with the cards and which number cards will be used.

The Agriculture Ministry has been given the right to establish a compulsory range of goods to the industry processing the agricultural produce and to bread, meat, and milk combines. That will mean that producers of bread, meat, and milk must process goods which will yield more from the same fixed quantity of ingredients. It is possible that the production of smoked sausage, for example, will be suspended as it takes several times more meat than boiled sausage. This government resolution is compulsory for all meat, milk, and bread combines. The Estonian Government also decided that resources must be reallocated so that the entire republic will be uniformly supplied with bread and milk products.

Local governments have been charged with the task—by the government—to adhere strictly to trading regulations and to monitor sales of rationed food. Local governments have been given also the right to dismiss immediately shop managers who have violated trading regulations. This concerns in particular the requirement for the Estonian purchase card. [passage omitted]

The Estonian Government relieved Tiit Kouhkna, director of the Tallinn dairy combine, from his post as he had failed at his job. A government commission was set up to check the work of other enterprises. [passage omitted]

Latvia

Godmanis Reports on Russian Withdrawal Plan

LD1201111192 Riga Radio Riga International in English 0700 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] After talks with the leadership of Russia, Latvian Premier Ivars Godmanis reported that the preliminary mechanism of the USSR Army withdrawal from Latvia has been discussed with the Russian Government. The

Russian party agreed in the very fact of the Army withdrawal, and a special delegation has been formed to discuss the issues concerning the USSR Army's property status on the territory of Latvia.

The Russian party stressed that the process of withdrawal should not be rushed and would probably take five to seven years.

Minister of State Leaves for Moscow Talks

OW1201190992 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1735 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Latvian minister of state Janis Dinevics left for Moscow on Saturday [11 January] to continue talks on the status of troops of the former Soviet Union in Latvia, the press-service of the Latvian government reports.

According to unconfirmed reports published by Diena newspaper, a regular meeting of the Russian government is planned to discuss the speediest possible pullout of the Commonwealth troops from Latvia and a transfer of military facilities under Latvian jurisdiction.

Northwest Army Group Barter Deal Reported

LD1201091392 Riga Radio Riga International in Latvian 0530 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Text] Vladimir Mironov, commander of the Northwestern Army Group, has allocated Latvia 100,000 tonnes of diesel fuel and 50,000 tonnes of motor vehicle fuel from the Army's fuel stocks. Pressure from the Russian Government must be thanked for this, as Premier Ivars Godmanis met Russian Deputy Premier Yegor Gaydar on 6 January, and received from him a promise of help with fuel supplies. Latvia, for its part, promised to supply food to army units.

It seems as though some form of barter deal was struck, something which might take place again in the future.

Daugavpils Units 'To Ignore' Commonwealth

OW1001214092 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2011 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] The units of the former Soviet Union's Army stationed in the Latvian city of Daugavpils have decided to ignore any orders of the Commonwealth military command. In a statement January 9 they point out that the decision will be in force until the question of dividing the Soviet Army among the Commonwealth nations is resolved.

Military 'Illegally' Removes Property

OW1201000692 Moscow BALTFAX in English 1800 GMT 11 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Eriks Tilgass, member of the governmental commission on military facilities, told the newspaper "Diena" in Riga that the military continues to illegally remove property from their facilities in Latvia.

Tilgass noted that the removal goes on despite the order of the former Soviet Defense Minister Marshal Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov. He said the Latvian parliament's decision to transfer the Army's property to the republican control applies only to real estate. He said the Army understands that too literally, leaving only bare buildings, often without windows and doors.

Godmanis on Payment Arrangements for Fuel

LD1101065392 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0530 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] At the Council of Ministers session yesterday, Prime Minister Ivars Godmanis announced that in connection with the critical energy situation, in the future, for every transit shipment of fuel by Russia and other states through Latvia, a payment in kind will be exacted up to 6% of the amount being conveyed. So that supplies of agricultural produce from the country for processing enterprises are not exhausted, there will be maximal use of diesel transport because there is greater access to this form of fuel. In Riga compressed gas must again be used for conveyance of goods and passenger vehicles.

Transport Minister Dies in Car Accident

LD1201202392 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0630 GMT 12 Jan 92

[Text] We begin with tragic news: Latvian Transport Minister Janis Janovskis was killed in a car accident in Riga on 11 January.

Lithuania

Prime Minister on Lack of Raw Materials

LD1101052692 Vilnius Radio Vilnius International Service in Lithuanian 2200 GMT 9 Jan 92

[Text] Lithuanian Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius has confirmed that a copy of the decree by Russian Vice Premier Gennadiy Burbulis has reached Lithuania through unofficial channels. By that decree, Russia's supplies to the Baltic states are strictly licensed as of 2 January. In an interview to Lithuanian Radio, the prime minister stressed that the shipment of material resources to Lithuania had been practically curbed. No exception is made even with regard to production of the supplies which are part of the interstate agreement.

The prime minister said that so far Lithuania had met its engagements to Russia. Under the current circumstances, however, the supply of certain production would have to be stopped owing to a shortage of raw materials. Gediminas Vagonorius said that the Belarus and Russian Governments had already been informed about the possible end of production shipments to these states in case Lithuania did not get the necessary raw materials. At the same time, the prime minister pointed out he was confident that such measures could not settle the problem either of Lithuania or Russia. Therefore, other means must be sought to ease the economic situation.

Russia Accused of 'Terminating' Supplies

LD1001040292 Moscow TASS in English 2305 GMT 9 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Kazys Uscila]

[Text] Vilnius January 10 TASS—"We should not let the military eating Lithuanian bread do harm to Lithuania," Lithuanian Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius said at a news conference in Vilnius on Thursday [9 January].

He said that despite the local military commanders' promises not to hold war games in the republic, the last night "was not quiet. Military vehicles damaged roads and road installations".

Vagnorius said he will urge the Russian leadership and commanders of the Commonwealth armed forces to give an immediate explanation of the "incidents and compensate for the damage". Otherwise, Lithuania will have to "take the most severe sanctions," primarily logistic ones, Vagnorius said.

Speaking on the economic situation in the republic, the prime minister accused Russia of "terminating or reducing" its supplies to Lithuania. Under an agreement between both states, Russia promised to preserve 70 per cent of its last year's supplies to Lithuania this year.

The Lithuanian leadership has warned Russia, Kaliningrad region and Belarus it will stop its power and other supplies to these regions if they fail to fulfil their obligations, Vagnorius said.

Troop Movement Reported

OW1101011892 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2011 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Lithuanian Prime Minister Gediminas Vagnorius told a news conference in Vilnius January 9 that Soviet troops stationed on republican territory moved in various directions on January 8 night in Lithuania inflicting significant material damage. He said Lithuania will demand that the losses be indemnified. He pointed out that Lithuania will protest such actions at the highest level possible. "If there is no reaction to our protest, the Lithuanian government will have to take corresponding measures," he stressed.

Landsbergis Delivers New Year Address 31 Dec

PM1001154192 Vilnius EKHO LITVY in Russian 3 Jan 92 pp 1, 3

["Speech by Vytautas Landsbergis on Lithuanian Television 31 December 1991"—EKHO LITVY headline]

[Text] Respected citizens of the Lithuanian Republic, my dear comrades in arms in the struggle for freedom!

The end of the year is an appropriate time for looking back:

Back to January, which is already so far behind us but still so immediate, like an instant of love which has remained for ever;

And to February when we all once again said "yes" to Lithuanian independence for all the world—which back then still looked at this despondently—to hear;

And to March and April, at the whole of the road we have traversed this year, along which our difficulties and self-possession were accompanied by the Special Purpose Militia Detachment's blows and the mockery of the degenerates on the seized television air waves.

What has happened over the past year? Or maybe it should be put in a different way: What have we accomplished over this year?

These are not one and the same question. In fact there are two very different questions here, and whichever you pick as the right one, you can provide an answer accordingly.

So you can again hear people say that Lithuania itself has, allegedly, accomplished nothing in particular this year. Whatever has happened—everything, they say—has happened of its own accord, others have accomplished it for us, and we might as well have not even have tried.

And if we think that there has been a struggle over Lithuania itself, and we have had the will to create our own history, there are several former patriots who are nevertheless inclined to have a bit of a laugh at all this: They choose to use the word "victory" but write it down with irony in inverted commas. What can you do—such is our legacy and the diversity of thought here. Man's victory over himself, when the heart becomes a weapon before which a tank retreats, such a victory and such a quality are incomprehensible to them.

More than one politician in the West has let slip in private that, very likely, Lithuania itself does not even know what it has done to make the monster of bolshevik dictatorship disappear. I think that if polls were to be carried out there with the simple question—Which of the former Soviet republics was the first to do more than any other?—the reply would be fairly clear and would not conform to the opinion of our own Lithuanian political intriguers, whom I have mentioned, about the supposed insignificance of Lithuania's actions. Therefore, we Lithuanian people and the Lithuanian Republic should not be embarrassed by the thought or realization that we ourselves have accomplished something and promoted the common cause of the freedom of peoples in a worthy manner.

More than one Latvian and Estonian, who seem to be astonished by the sudden recognition of their independence this autumn, has said: Thank you Lithuania, it was Lithuania which got all three of us out of a difficult situation.

Here let us let mother history make the final judgment, but nevertheless we can still recall the genuinely more exacting and difficult route in our political struggle toward international recognition of Lithuania's independence. It was with Moscow's ultimatums and January's victims that the year started, as well as with tiny but generous Iceland's brave step to reestablish diplomatic relations with Lithuania, and the intercession of the new democratic Russia directly afterwards on 13 January; then six months later there was the detailed fundamental treaty which was prepared about Lithuania's political relations with Russia accompanied by a condemnation of the Soviet annexation and a recognition of Lithuania's independence—a treaty which we signed at the end of July, and which was followed directly by bloody retribution, a blow dealt in Medininkai by the KGB—the servants of the old empire of the USSR. And due to the senselessness of this hatred people in Moscow were running about like headless chickens all the more, and there was the move toward the unsuccessful putsch, whose ruins buried not only the Kremlin mafia but also the empire itself. The flag symbolizing red violence has been lowered in Moscow, and we believe no madman will take it out ever again from the cellar in Lazdijai, Prienai, or Salcininkai. But it is the Lithuanian flag which flutters in the community of nations together with the Latvian and Estonian flags, and paves the way for the Russian flag—not the other way round.

We have here a common cause—and these words should not be ridiculed, though there are those who would like to.

And so we have accomplished something. We have defended our rights and our choice to live in an independent state and revive a democratic Lithuania. We have defended them and they have been defended—but only in a peaceful manner, through politics, economics, law, and diplomacy—but for the moment the force which is squeezing and ruining us is not yet spent.

The war is over. It went on for a terribly long time in Lithuania—more than 50 years, and it was a total war the like of which had not been seen before, and which changed its weapons and form. Now even the aggressor is not there. But can you not hear the joyful call—everybody come home?! You can, but it is not very loud, as the situation is still a complex one.

Our ordinary soldier recruits are returning home, but they are still exiles returning or wishing to return. We should pay more attention to helping them. But there is no movement in the other direction. It is not enough for a former state's former "internal army" to leave a foreign country and return to "within" the Commonwealth. Subunits of the foreign army are still in place, and new soldiers are still being brought in due to an oversight by our officials. Solutions should be found. Let every former Soviet private return to his parents and girl friend; let all the offensive weapons, which international accords order to be reduced, be taken away; then only the problem of apartments for the officers will remain, and it will be easier to find a solution—possibly an international one.

We are urgently proposing this; we are still awaiting replies, but are looking to the new year in the hope that we will live to see both the replies and the solutions.

There is another question, or maybe it is the same one in a different guise—are we coming home to the best, normal human relations?

More than one person has made the appeal—let us forget the past. And it is possible that more than one person has thought—why can we not meet the future united? Why are we quarreling?

The fact of the matter is that one set of people unfortunately sees our very future in a different way from another.

One group of people sees it in broad terms, on the scale of the whole of Lithuania; for the other, its scale is defined by itself or it is that of a group of friends.

People's characters are different, as are their thoughts and interests; therefore you can understand that it is entirely normal to have disputes or to grab an even larger piece of the pie as in a normal society.

But the sad thing is that we have emerged from a common calamity in which you can nevertheless see St. John and St. Peter's different pasts.

Memories and suspicious assumptions keep cropping up; and also accusations—Why are you such and such?—and the opposite sort of accusation: So why do you keep harping on that I am such and such?

Old partisans and political detainees are begging: "At least now, while we are still alive, don't behave badly."

There were people whose concern was to sow vileness in our land and to draw as many people as possible into the net of KGB secret informers. And the professionals of this agency, who are masters at setting people against one another in order to achieve dishonorable aims, have nowhere to go.

I received a letter from one woman written on Christmas Eve. She is terrified that jeering, humiliation, and shame will befall her; it seems to her that her parents were in this net. People are already saying, she writes, that lists and surnames will be published. Her mother said that "there are no volunteers in this business," they were basically forced to become informers, only a few chose to do otherwise. What are the children and grandchildren guilty of, she asks in the letter, why is the black cloud of vengeance hanging over our heads and why are we threatened by terrible shame?

There are quite a lot of people like this in Lithuania, and I would like to give them an answer, at least before the New Year.

The Lithuanian authorities have no intention of publishing lists of informers. This was clearly stated immediately after the restoration of independence, back in March last year. A date has been set in the Supreme Council statement—28 March—on which these ties should be cut, and nobody will be prosecuted, even if the KGB itself intends to publish some surnames.

My human appeal was this: Commit no more transgressions, repent, and confess if you want to. Many people have broken the links, quite a few have unburdened their souls by confessing—either to their families or to the Supreme Council Commission; even deputies have made provision for their own specific and special procedure. So perhaps the KGB's final secret weapon against Lithuania will not be as effective as was hoped?

Lithuania has already risen up, and Lithuania will endure. But what will happen in Lithuania? What will gain a firm foothold? The desire to work or the desire to plunder? Or perhaps the desire to be a judge, to boast, to humiliate those around us: "In those days I behaved better than him or her." Let anyone who is tempted to do this read the Holy Scripture about the pharisees and the tax collector. And in every institution we have inherited from the Soviet system, it would do no harm to observe some of the 10 Commandments: Thou shalt not steal; thou shalt not bear false witness. Or the other way round. As popular wisdom puts it: He who lies, steals.

This is where, on the moral level, the new and deepest front line of independence now runs.

In affairs of state we have also had something to rejoice about in recent weeks, and something to plan for next year. Thus we have appointed the first officers in Lithuania's renascent army, we are beginning to clarify the lines of our borders with our neighbors and mark them out on the ground, we have our own mail service and air communications, we are introducing the lit, and in 1992 we will issue Lithuanian citizens' passports.

We are glad to hear about the appointment of Audris Backis as archbishop of Vilnius, and the announcement sanctioned by Pope John Paul II that the integral ecclesiastical province of Lithuania is to comprise two metropolitanates—Vilnius and Kaunas.

The most difficult and, therefore, the most unforgettable year, a great year of ordeals for Lithuania has already been overcome—this is the year we are currently seeing out. We are going toward new hope and all kinds of work for Lithuania's sake. I wish you success!

Landsbergis Addresses 'Thousands' 13 Jan

*LD1301063492 Moscow TASS in English
0626 GMT 13 Jan 92*

[By TASS correspondent Kazys Uscila]

[Text] Vilnius January 13 TASS—"We recall that night a year ago as a tragic and heroic night. Due to that night, Lithuania remained standing, undefeated, not kneeling", Lithuanian leader said addressing thousands of Vilnius inhabitants who gathered around bonfires in front of the parliament building at 02:00 this morning.

A year ago, on January 13, 1991, Soviet paratroopers began to storm the Vilnius television tower.

Recalling that night, the Lithuanian parliament leader called for unity and mutual understanding: "Let us get ready to do much work all together, work to be done by all Lithuanians in the fields of our labour", he said.

14 Killed, 800 Injured in Jan 1991 Incidents

*LD1101014992 Moscow TASS in English
2202 GMT 10 Jan 92*

[By TASS correspondent Kazis Ustsila]

[Text] Vilnuis January 10 TASS—Forteen people head died and about 800 were injured in January 1991 incidents in Lithuania, the public prosecutor told journalists here today.

The detachments of the former Soviet army were brought into Vilnuis and captured the television tower and a number of other strategically important positions in January 1991 with the aim of preventing restoration of Lithuania's independence.

According to Lithuanian Prosecutor General Arturas Paulaskas, the January 1991 incidents were conspired in Moscow by the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the KGB and the Soviet army in their bid to overthrow the government in Lithuania.

A criminal case could be filed in the court, but so far it has not been possible because no reply has been received to Lithuania's demand from the Russian leadership for handing over 23 accused of January 1991 incidents, the prosecutor general is reported to have said. He expressed the hope of solving the problem in the scheduled 16 January meeting of Lithuanian President Vitautas Landsbergis with Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

The identities of the four members of the National Salvation Committee actually directing the Soviet army's operations in Lithuania have been established. Only the fact about their living outside Lithuania was told withholding their surnames.

The Lithuanian prosecutor general sanctioned the arrest of nine more persons suspected of being involved in

January 1991 incidents. Only one accused, the former commandent of Vilnuis military garrison Colonel Grigoriy Belous was named.

Border Guards, Kaliningrad Customs 'Incident'

LD1101104292 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0958 GMT 11 Jan 92

[By TASS correspondent Valeriy Biryukov]

[Text] Sovetsk (Kaliningrad Oblast), 11 Jan (TASS)—On 10 January, Lithuanian border guards at the Pagegiai customs post would not allow a column of military vehicles coming from Riga to pass through to Sovetsk. But the trucks, bypassing the post through the watermeadow of the River Neman, set off to break through to the bridge across a field. Nor were they stopped by automatic rifle fire opened by the border guards into the air and at the tires of one of the vehicles. After crossing the bridge and without lingering in Sovetsk, the column continued on its way toward its destination.

The Kaliningrad customs official who reported the incident added that the Lithuanian side did not ask the Russian border guards and customs men to detain the vehicles or to investigate the occurrence.

News Conference Held

OW1101011992 Moscow BALTFAX in English 2011 GMT 10 Jan 92

[Transmitted via KYODO]

[Text] Reporters were told at a news briefing in the Lithuanian parliament January 10 that an incident occurred at the border post Shilutev between Lithuania and Russia's Kaliningrad region January 9. Lithuanian border guards stopped a column of 10 Soviet military vehicles carrying air-defense equipment and missiles to Lithuania from the Kaliningrad region. They told the column's chief that he should have the permission of the Lithuanian government to enter Lithuania.

The chief of the column threatened that he would "launch a couple of missiles and destroy the border post." Nevertheless, having ruined several artificial obstacles, the military turned back.

Army Weapons, Explosives Stolen From Stores

LD1201112492 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 2200 GMT 8 Jan 92

[Text] The government press bureau has expressed concern about the plundering and loss of weapons by soldiers of the former Soviet Union. According to a statement released by the press bureau today, there have been many instances when soldiers stationed in Lithuania, usually when intoxicated, lost or abandoned their weapons. Because of insufficient order, weapons and explosives are being plundered from military stores. The worsening discipline and disorder in the Soviet Army create favorable conditions for soldiers to act as they please, a situation which is a danger to the security of Lithuania's residents, says the government press bureau statement.